



SPEECHES

delivered by

**His Excellency The Right Hon'ble
SIR JOHN ANDERSON, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E.**

Governor of Bengal

and

**His Excellency The Right Hon'ble
LORD BRABOURNE, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., M.C.**

Governor of Bengal

during

1937-38

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Speeches delivered by His Excellency Sir, John Anderson during 1937.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Bengal Provincial Boy Scouts Association on 9th April 1937.

GENTLEMEN,

Before I proceed to the more formal remarks that I have to make to you this evening I should like to associate myself personally with the eloquent tribute which Mr. De paid at the outset of the proceedings to the memory of the late Sardar Bahadur S. W. Laden La. I knew the Sardar Bahadur, very well: he was an honorary member of my personal staff at the time when I arrived in this province and continued to be so until his death. I had many dealings with him in connection with scout, and a host of other, matters and I am therefore in a better position than many of you to appreciate the gap that his death has caused in the social and public life in Darjeeling district. The zeal with which he applied himself to everything he took in hand was only equalled by his cheerfulness on all occasions—both were of that rare quality which is infectious. He was a person whom it is literally impossible to replace.

It is now four years since I first addressed this Council, and to-day as I do so for what must be the last time, I may fitly review the progress of the movement during that period.

In the first place we have a large increase of numbers, there being some six or seven thousand more scouts on the rolls to-day than there were four years ago. That, I think, is a sure proof of the popularity of this movement in Bengal. It is also proof of the need for some organisation set up for the express purpose of interesting and building the character of youth at its most impressionable age; for scouting is an education that looks beyond the material side of school life and is ordered more by ideals than by laws,—a grand game in which all may partake. When it is remembered that sister organisations catering in similar ways for youths of the same age have likewise prospered in the same period, the need for such institutions becomes apparent beyond a doubt.

We must not however be led by a mere statement of numbers into a belief in the health and soundness of our movement. Democracy has been somewhat cynically described as the counting of heads irrespective of their contents. Let us not think because we have 17,000 scouts in the province that they are necessarily all good scouts, however much we may hope or believe that they are. The quality of our scouts is of as much importance as their quantity.

Let us therefore look back briefly to see if we can tell to what extent we have been able to improve the standard of our scouting. It is a somewhat difficult thing to assess because we cannot take the scouts of four years ago and place them beside the scouts of to-day and judge their differences. An indication that our standards are now on a higher level may however be found in the numbers

of our King's Scouts which have, I am told, doubled or trebled in the last four years. The facilities for scouting have also made large strides and there is little doubt that they have been responsible for an improvement in the quality of our scouting itself. I would in the first place refer once more to the provision of a permanent camp site at Ganganagar, now a reality, but four years ago a long-cherished dream, the fulfilment of which had just come within the bounds of possibility. We have heard to-night of the facilities now provided at the camp site, and I trust that its remaining requirement will soon be provided.

Another factor in the improvement of the quality of our scouting has been the Jackson Shield Competition which was first held in 1932. This has provided not only the keenness and enthusiasm born of healthy rivalry, but, even more important, has enabled the boys from different districts and associations to come into contact with one another and to discuss with one another subjects in which each alike could take a full interest. Out in the countryside where associations are isolated from one another, new ideas, thoughts and customs are obtained only through the written word of the scouting manuals. I do not belittle those manuals, which indeed are essential for the proper spread of a movement like scouting. But for such boys themselves to get out of their own areas, to see how the same things may be done in better ways and how things altogether new to them are performed, is for them to come suddenly on a new world of scouting. This, in my belief, is one of the greatest benefits of the Jackson Shield Competition.

What I have said regarding the boys of different districts of the province in a Provincial Competition is true of the scouts of different provinces when they are brought together on some special occasion. This year our scouts have attended the Jamboree at Delhi. A Jamboree is a function which, I feel, must bring to those who take part encouragement and at the same time humiliation. Other contingents seem to do so much better in items where one prided oneself on one's own prowess; and conversely one is apt to find that the Cinderella of one's displays is, amongst the efforts put up by other contingents, a Princess after all. I do not know what our scouts thought of their achievements, whether they were encouraged or humiliated or both. I did however receive a letter from the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, which contained the following very gratifying passage:—

“I offer my congratulations on the good name which the scouts of Bengal won for themselves among the thousands assembled at the Jamboree.

“I am very glad that I shall be able, therefore, to report favourably on them to His Majesty the King-Emperor on my return to England”.

I think there can be no doubt that our scouts were able to prove their worth at Delhi.

I have said all that I wish to say concerning the prowess of our scouts in regular scouting lore and practice. But before I close, I would once more remind you that the real object of scouting goes

beyond games and what I may call technical achievement. Those, though interesting and enjoyable, are in fact a means to an end,—to make life a game with all the zest and comradeship that the word implies. In the corporate life of the scout troop such an ideal takes the form of social service. The reports of the Local Associations placed before you to-night are not lacking in instances. You will find that the scouts have been active at fairs and melas, doing such services as attending to the water-supply, looking after lost children and running First Aid stations. Scouts of one Association rescued people from a falling house, others lent their aid in an anti-cholera campaign and others again have destroyed jungle and water-hyacinth in the countryside. There is no end to the work that can be done in this way; but that fact should be in no way discouraging. For the example of our scouts in these matters will in the end bring others to a realisation of the need for giving their services also in the same kind of cause.

Well, gentlemen, I have said enough of the past. As to the future, I fear I shall not address this Council again. I must however once more express my appreciation of the great amount of voluntary work put into the scout movement by leaders, scouters and others. I am confident that under their guidance the movement in Bengal will prosper in the future as it has done in the past.

***His Excellency's Addresses to Gentlemen
Invested at the Dacca Durbar on 12th
July 1937.***

MR. GILBERT PITCAIRN HOGG, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

You joined the Indian Civil Service in 1908 and your record of excellent work both in the districts and the Secretariat, and as a Commissioner of a Division, was recognised in 1932 when His late Majesty appointed you a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. In 1933 you were appointed to be Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal being confirmed in that position early in 1934. This position which entails even in normal times the discharge of exceedingly onerous duties was rendered even more arduous and responsible by the complex and difficult problems confronting the Political Department of the Government of Bengal as a result of the Civil Disobedience and Terrorist movements. You have throughout displayed great ability and devotion to duty which have won for you universal esteem: the further honour with which I have now to invest you was conferred upon you on the King-Emperor's Birthday in 1936.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

MR. JAMES RICHARD BLAIR, C.I.E., I.C.S.,

You entered the Indian Civil Service in 1914 and were posted to this Province, but within a few months received a Commission in the Territorial Force with which you served until the end of the war. Since then you have held a variety of responsible posts both under this Government and under the Government of India. As a District Officer you have held charge of the two most important districts of Eastern Bengal and your tenure of office in this district of Dacca is recalled with appreciation: now for over a year you have held the position of Additional Secretary in the Political, now Home, Department—a post involving arduous and extremely responsible work. Your service has been marked throughout by ability and industry, and your fairmindedness and humanity combined with a high sense of the trust which has been reposed upon you, have been of great value to Government.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

MR. KHWAJA SHAHABUDDIN, C.B.E., M.L.A.,

A member of the Dacca Nawab family you have for the last ten years taken an active and commendable part in public life in Dacca and Eastern Bengal. You have held a number of positions of responsibility in Dacca including those of a Municipal Commissioner and an Honorary Magistrate. You are still the Chairman of the District Board and Honorary Treasurer of the

University of Dacca. In 1936 you held during a leave vacancy the high office of Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department and towards the end of the same year were called upon to assume for a time the responsibilities of the office of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dacca. Your practical ability and knowledge of the world combined with a strict self discipline and a sense of principle have earned for you recognition as an able servant of the public and a valued counsellor.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Commander.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI NURUZZAMAN,

For over 20 years you have taken an active part in public life in the Subdivision of Bhola, first in the Local Board, later in the District Board and Municipality, and in the Central Co-operative Bank, where you have discharged the office of Honorary Secretary for over 10 years. You have been active in the cause of education and have joined in founding two schools of secondary status and have given your services to other public institutions. Your loyalty and broadmindedness have won you high esteem from all communities and your influence has been readily placed at the disposal of good causes. You did valuable work as Secretary to the Bihar Earthquake Fund Committee and the Silver Jubilee Committee.

In 1929 the title of Khan Sahib was bestowed upon you and I have much pleasure in handing to you

the Sanad of the title of Khan Bahadur which His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you. I congratulate you.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI NAJIBUDDIN AHMED,

You have earned for yourself the reputation of being one of the ablest Presidents of Union Boards in the Manikganj Subdivision having been President of the Baldhara Union Board for some ten years and latterly a member of the Local Board also. In your own locality you are well-known for your impartiality and fairness which have earned for you the respect of all classes and communities. Ever ready to further the welfare of the people of your Union you have taken up in earnest work in connection with the destruction of water-hyacinth and the restriction of jute and your efforts have been attended with a large measure of success. Moreover, your services have always been at the disposal of the authorities with whom you have at all times loyally co-operated.

In 1933 you became a Khan Sahib and it is with much pleasure that I now hand to you the Sanad of the title of Khan Bahadur which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you. I congratulate you.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI KAZI ABDUR RASHID,

The list of your public services and public benefactions is a long and impressive one. Your interest in education has been evinced by the foundation of the Kazi Abdul Hamid Free Primary School at Narindia, membership of the Dacca District School Board, the University Court and

the Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage and by your support of Education Week held in Calcutta in 1936. You are also interested in the co-operative movement and occupy positions of authority in two Co-operative Banks in Dacca.

Your services have now received recognition by His Excellency the Viceroy in the award of the title of Khan Bahadur. In handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

RAI TRAILOKYA NATH ROY BAHADUR,

You joined the judicial service in 1909 and served as a Munsif for some 10 years when you began to officiate as a Sub-Judge being confirmed in that rank in 1932. Before you retired in 1935 after a long and meritorious service of over 26 years you were able to attain the position of a District and Sessions Judge in which capacity you served for some 9 months.

In recognition of the valuable services which you have rendered His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and in handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI DEWAN AHMED ALI,

You have a record of over 33 years service in the Assam Public Works Department characterised by conspicuous loyalty, honesty and steadfastness. Your pioneer work as an executive officer of the department in the Lushai Hills during times when life and property were insecure is particularly worthy of mention.

Your services have now received recognition by His Excellency the Viceroy in the conferment upon you of the title of Khan Sahib. I congratulate you upon this award and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of this title.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI CHAUDHURI AFSAR ALI,

You joined the Bengal Civil Service in 1916 and have put in over 20 years of service mostly in executive capacities. In 1935, however, you became Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the Dacca Division and in the last two years have done valuable work in this capacity. The economic depression and the low price of jute affected the co-operative societies in your division most seriously but by continuous touring and skilful guidance you have enabled many of the Central Banks to avoid the collapse which at one time threatened them.

Your tactfulness and thorough methods of work have made you popular with all those with whom you have come in contact both official and non-official. His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib and I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction. I congratulate you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SHAH ABDUL MANNAN,

Your work as President of the Laskardia Union Board in the district of Faridpur has been both energetic and competent and under your direction the Board has carried out a number of works of public utility. The care which you have devoted

to the organisation and supervision of the rural police has done much for the control of crime in your Union. Your services are always at the disposal of the authorities in matters relating to improvement of the countryside and your enthusiasm in the destruction of water-hyacinth has brought relief from this pest to large areas of the Sadar Subdivision of Faridpur. You have also served with credit on the Faridpur District Board.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Khan Sahib of which I now hand you the Sanad. I congratulate you on the award of this well merited distinction.

RAI SAHIB JITENDRA MOHAN DHAR,

You entered the Police Department as a Sub-Inspector in 1912 and after receiving training as a detective were transferred to the Intelligence Branch in 1924. Since that time you have won for yourself a great reputation in this type of work and have been of great value to the authorities in the control and suppression of terrorist activities in the Dacca district. In trying times and often at great personal risk you have displayed marked ability, unwavering courage and consistent devotion to duty and during your service have been granted as many as 35 money rewards besides a large number of good service marks and commendations.

In recognition of your services the title of Rai Sahib has been conferred upon you by His Excellency the Viceroy and I now have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB JOGENDRA MOHAN DATTA,

You entered the Education Department in 1899 and in 1925 were promoted to the Bengal Educational Service on probation as Head Master of the Bogra Zilla School, being confirmed both in the service and the post in the following year. In 1928 you became Superintendent of the Dacca Normal School and for three years from 1932 until your retirement in 1935 officiated as Head Master of the Dacca Collegiate School. Throughout your long service you showed yourself to be a very capable, honest and loyal officer and your tenure of the Headmastership of Dacca Collegiate School, which is one of the most important Headmasterships of the Province, was marked with success.

I have now much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you. I congratulate you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI WAJED ALI KHAN,

You are now the Secretary of the Raipura Central Co-operative Bank in Dacca District, having served since 1922 successively as apprentice and Supervisor in the Dacca Central Co-operative Bank, and later as Auditor of Co-operative Societies in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh. It is largely owing to your influence that the Raipura Bank has maintained a remarkably sound position in the time of economic depression. Your interest in the countryside however is not limited to the welfare of the Bank and you have taken a leading part in the campaigns for the destruction of water-hyacinth, the restriction of jute and the

introduction of substitute crops. You also organised the first Agricultural and Industrial Health Exhibition held in Raipura and were instrumental in forming an Anti-Malaria League. In times of flood you have rendered active assistance to distressed persons in the char areas of Raipura.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to recognise your services by the award of the title of Khan Sahib and in handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD OSMAN ALI,

You have been the President of the Dhanikhola Union Board in Mymensingh district since its inception in 1927 and before that were for many years the Collecting Member of the Panchayet. Under your guidance a charitable dispensary, a junior Madrasah and several primary schools have been established in your Union and you have been connected with many works of public utility in the area of the Trishal police station. Your loyalty is well-known, and you command influence and respect beyond the borders of your Union.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib upon which I congratulate you. I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that title.

RAI SAHIB AMBICA CHARAN GUHA ROY,

Your long and faithful service under the Court of Wards as Superintendent of the Dacca Nawab Estate in Barisal Circle has earned the commendation of successive officers under whom you have served. In difficult and troublous times you have

rendered valuable help to the authorities in the control and suppression of subversive movements.

Your services have now been recognised by His Excellency the Viceroy by the conferment of the title of Rai Sahib upon you. In handing to you the Sanad of this title I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB PRAFULLA KUMAR GUHA,

You have a long record of service as a Stenographer in the Secretariat of the Government of Bengal. Your work which by its nature requires both trustworthiness and accuracy has always been carried out in a capable and conscientious manner. In recognition of your efficient and faithful service I have now much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB JATINDRA MOHAN DE,

You have rendered excellent service in various public capacities in the Abdullapur area of Dacca, in particular as an Honorary Magistrate and as a former President and Member of the Abdullapur Union Board. You have also been an influence for good as a member of the Abdullapur High English School Committee and your interest in educational matters has further been demonstrated by a most generous gift towards a high school for girls at Munshiganj. Your public services and benefactions have won for you great respect and influence locally and you have at all times rendered ungrudging assistance to the local officers of Government.

In recognition of your good services extending for over a quarter of a century His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to bestow upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I now hand you the Sanad of this title and congratulate you upon its conferment.

BABU HEM CHANDRA DAS GUPTA,

As Veterinary Inspector in the Bakarganj Circle you had to deal with a widespread outbreak of rinderpest in the Bakarganj district at the end of 1935. In so doing you were confronted with the exceptional geographical difficulties of a river district and had to subject yourself to severe hardships. By properly controlling and directing your staff and by applying the new Tissue Vaccine you were able to stop the outbreak and in so doing added to an already excellent record of service.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

His Excellency's Addresses to recipients of Indian Police Medals, King's Police Medals and to the Members of the Public to whom rewards were given at the Police Parade held at Dacca on 13th July 1937.

Indian Police Medal.

MR. JOHN COTTON FARMER, I.P.,

You have rendered long and valuable service in the Indian Police culminating in your appointment to be Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, in which appointment you have set a high example to those serving under you. It gives me great pleasure to decorate you with the Indian Police Medal which has been bestowed upon you both in recognition of your personal services and in token of the dignity of this award to which all ranks of the force may worthily aspire as an honourable recognition.

King's Police Medal.

MR. ABU HAMID MUHAMMAD SHAMSODDOHA, I.P.,

You entered the Indian Police in 1924 and have officiated in the rank of Superintendent since 1931. As an Assistant Superintendent of Police in the Contai Subdivision of Midnapore in 1930 you handled a difficult situation with skill and received the congratulations of Government. As Superintendent of Police in Birbhum and later in Faridpur district you have spared no pains to acquire an intimate first hand knowledge of your district by energetic touring and close personal contact with

the people. The confidence you have thus gained has been of marked value both to Government and the public.

His Majesty has been pleased to recognise your services by the grant of the King's Police Medal with which I have now much pleasure in decorating you.

MR. SURENDRA NATH CHATARJI, I.P.,

Your service in the Indian Police which you entered in 1925 has been marked throughout by keenness and ability. In particular your work in Dinajpur district, to which you were appointed as officiating Superintendent in 1933, was of an exceptionally high order. In the course of the two years following your appointment to that district you were successful in breaking up the ramifications of terrorist parties at work there and you have played a very important part in the general campaign against revolutionary organisations in this Province.

The award by His Majesty of the King's Police Medal is a fitting tribute to the diligence and enterprise which you have displayed. I congratulate you most heartily.

BABU JAMINI MOHAN BANARJI,

You have contributed in no small measure to the successful prosecution of various political conspiracy cases and your work throughout has been exceptionally good. You have well deserved the high honour which His Majesty has conferred upon you by the grant of the King's Police Medal with which I now have much pleasure in decorating you.

Indian Police Medal.

RAI BHOLA NATH BANARJI BAHADUR, I.P.,

You joined the Police force in 1908 and your promotion to the Imperial Service in 1919 was confirmed in 1921. In recognition of your valuable services the title of Rai Bahadur was conferred on you in 1924. Your continually thorough and efficient work has now earned for you the award of the Indian Police Medal with which I have much pleasure in decorating you. I congratulate you.

RAI HRIDAY NATH DATTA BAHADUR,

Your keen and thorough work in the Finger Print Bureau has marked you out as a very efficient member of the Police force which you entered as long ago as 1903 and in which you have risen to the rank of Deputy Superintendent. In 1931 you became a Rai Sahib and last year the title of Rai Bahadur was conferred upon you in recognition of your meritorious service. I congratulate you upon the award of the Indian Police Medal with which I now decorate you.

INSPECTOR JITENDRA NATH SEN,

You have worked in the Police Department with conspicuous ability for over 30 years, of which the greater portion has been spent in the Criminal Investigation Department. Your services in connection with the detection of dacoities have been especially worthy of mention and you have received numerous money rewards and other marks of distinction, besides being twice specially mentioned

in the Annual Administration Report. In recognition of your loyal and trustworthy service, the Indian Police Medal has now been conferred upon you. In decorating you with this Medal I congratulate you.

INSPECTOR RASIK CHARAN BASU,

You entered the Police Department in 1911 and your record of service is of an exceptionally high order. Since joining the District Intelligence Branch in Bākarganj you have helped to bring revolutionary elements in that district under control and have been largely instrumental in preserving the district from terrorist outrages. I have now much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which you have so well deserved.

INSPECTOR ABINASH CHANDRA GUHA,

You joined the Police service in 1916 and during the Civil Disobedience Movement you proved yourself of great value to those under whom you served. Your work in combating the terrorist movement as a member of the District Intelligence Branch in Dacca has won appreciation. You have received on a number of occasions commendations and monetary rewards and I now have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which has been conferred on you in recognition of your services.

**OFFICIATING INSPECTOR JATINDRA MOHAN CHAKRA-
BATTI,**

You entered the Police Service 17 years ago and have an excellent record particularly since joining

the Intelligence Branch in 1930. You have played a conspicuous part in the investigation of many political cases and as a result of your tactful collection of valuable information, several notorious absconders have been arrested. I have now much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal and congratulate you upon its award.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR SURESH CHANDRA CHAKRA-BATTI,

Whilst employed in the District Intelligence Branch both in Mymensingh and Faridpur you displayed great tact and resource in the collection of information concerning terrorists. You were also responsible for the recovery of fire-arms and ammunition. You have earned many money rewards and commendations. In decorating you with the Indian Police Medal I congratulate you on its award.

SUB-INSPECTOR RADHIKA CHARAN DAS,

You joined the Police as a constable as long ago as 1903 and soon showed yourself possessed of exceptional ability. Throughout your service you have performed excellent work and have displayed great devotion to duty. Your many years of loyal and able service, during which you have risen to the rank of Sub-Inspector, have now been recognised in the award of the Indian Police Medal. In decorating you therewith I congratulate you.

SUB-INSPECTOR BASANTA KUMAR MUKHARJI,

In 1927 you were promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspector after 13 years service in the force. Three

years later you entered the District Intelligence Branch where your excellent work has been on occasions performed at considerable personal risk. Your record includes the recovery of a number of unlicensed arms and ammunition as well as the arrest of several dangerous absconders. It is largely through your efforts that several terrorist plans have been frustrated. I have now much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal which you have so well deserved. I congratulate you.

SUB-INSPECTOR GIRINDRA NATH SINGH,

You have been responsible for averting many contemplated dacoities as well as for the arrest of several suspects and the capture of arms and ammunition. There are a great number of good service marks and commendations to your credit and you have received rewards on several occasions. Your valuable work in the Police Service, which you joined in 1920, has earned recognition in the award of the Indian Police Medal with which I now decorate you. I congratulate you.

SUB-INSPECTOR HEMENDRA NARAYAN BURMAN,

You have rendered distinguished service in the District Intelligence Branch since 1930 and latterly have been in charge of Intelligence work in the Brahmanbaria Subdivision and at Agartala. Your successes have included the recovery of revolvers and the arrest of a number of political absconders. I now have much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal on the award of which, I congratulate you.

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR SURENDRA BIJAY DEB,

You were selected to lead a military party to an allotted position in a cordon and due to your commendable promptitude and personal courage a dangerous terrorist was captured. It is with great pleasure that I now decorate you with the Indian Police Medal which has been fittingly awarded to you. I congratulate you.

Members of the Public.

BABU PRAMATHA BHUSHAN GHOSHAL,

It was owing to your ready and willing help that the identity of certain poachers who had been responsible for the murder of two Forest Guards in the Odlaighora Forest was established. Your services on this occasion were largely responsible for bringing these murderers to justice.

MAULVI TUSTU SARDAR,

MAULVI MANGAN SARDAR,

• When a gang of dacoits had committed an outrage in your village you displayed exemplary courage in pursuing one of them and engaging him in a hand to hand fight. Your prompt and courageous action rallied your fellow villagers and eventually two of the gang were captured. As a result, the activities of this gang which had been responsible for several dacoities were brought to a close.

MAULVI HAZARI MANDAL,

MAULVI ERSHAD MANDAL,

At considerable personal risk you opposed a party of dacoits who were committing a dacoity and managed to wound and capture the leader of

the party. This courageous action led eventually to the detection of two dacoity cases and to the breaking up of a formidable gang.

MAULVI KARIMUDDIN AHMAD PANDIT,

You rendered whole-hearted assistance to the police in their bringing to book persons in the district of Rangpur who under cover of rich and influential support were oppressing the people of their locality. Your action displayed great public spirit and moral courage.

MAULVI AMJED ALI,

„ **ABDUL WAHAB,**
 „ **MIR ABDUL WAHAB,**
 „ **AHMAD BAKHSH,**
 „ **JAMIR ALI NIKARI,**

BABU UMA CHARAN DHUBI,

You showed great bravery and resource when a dacoity was committed in the district of Bakarganj. By offering resistance to the dacoits you were able to account for four of their number and were of much assistance to the authorities in bringing to justice those who were arrested.

BABU BIJAY KRISTA CHATARJI,

„ **SHYAMA PADA SINGHA RAY,**

At the request of the police you accompanied a party which set out to intercept a gang of dacoits who were reported to be contemplating an outrage. On arrival at the appointed place and discovering that a dacoity had already been committed you pursued the criminals and at great personal risk managed to capture one of their number.

His Excellency's Speech at the Police Parade held at Dacca on 13th July 1937.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BENGAL POLICE FORCE,

I am addressing you to-day for the last time as the Governor of Bengal and for the first time under constitutional conditions differing radically from those which prevailed a year ago. The Governor of a Province retains and will continue to retain a special relationship to the services of the Crown and that relationship may well render it appropriate for him to address them personally on occasions of this kind and upon matters with which, as the representative of the King-Emperor, he is particularly concerned: but for the administration of the police, for their efficiency and welfare, the Minister in charge of the Home Department has a responsibility more direct and immediate than that of the Governor—a responsibility not to be whittled down or blurred and less still, save in circumstances which are far from our contemplation, to be superseded.

It is Sir Nazimuddin therefore whom you might well expect to review the progress and achievements of the force under his charge and to make such pronouncements as he might deem appropriate as to the line of policy and administration which, with the support of his colleagues, he might intend to follow in the future. Appreciating as I do the manner in which he has stood aside and invited me to take this last opportunity of addressing you, I

do not propose to trench on matters which I regard as more appropriate for Ministers to deal with; I shall accordingly confine myself so far as concerns the administration of the force and its work to questions of fact or to matters of decided policy in which under the old regime I have had a personal and actual responsibility..

Both the report of your Inspector-General and the turn-out on the present Parade testify to the standard of discipline and efficiency maintained by the force as a whole during the year that has passed. The Bengal Police have reason for special pride in the fact that not only did their representatives attend the Coronation celebrations in London, but that it was a Bengal Police Officer who was selected to command the whole contingent of police from India. The Eastern Frontier Rifles won high commendation at the installation of His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar: on that spectacular occasion their detachment worthily represented a battalion of which the Police forces in the Province may justly be proud.

In the administration of the force and its conditions of service decisions of considerable importance were taken by the late Government during their term of office. One decision that I know was regarded not without misgiving was that for future entrants the rates of pay of provincial and subordinate police officers must be scaled down on principles similar to those applied in scaling down the pay of other services in the Province. It was a decision for the taking of which I accept, my full share of responsibility: but I believe that

future entrants into the affected grades of the police will themselves realise the impossibility of exempting them from the operation of a general and obligatory principle at a time when salaries of the Provincial Services have been uniformly scaled down. I look to them to accept the position loyally remembering the obligations common to them and to all servants of the Crown in this Province.

Another important decision of the late Government was to undertake by selected officers of long experience in technical and financial affairs, a comprehensive review of the strength, organisation and distribution of the police forces. It is not for me to say what action may be taken by Governments of the future upon the material thus provided; but I have no doubt that that material will be of the greatest value to those upon whom the responsibility for police administration has now devolved.

I may mention further as a matter of general interest an order issued early in April by the Inspector-General that as a general rule only literate Bengalis should be recruited to the unarmed branch of the force: the experience of the past year continues to show that there is no lack of recruits of this character.

I cannot while speaking of administrative matters omit mention of one other question, namely, that of buildings and accommodation. It is a bare statement of fact that while in some fortunate places modern and sanitary accommodation has been provided there are others which I have seen

with my own eyes where officers and men of the force are obliged to live under conditions that reflect no credit on a Government that employs them. For this state of affairs I freely admit the responsibility of past Governments in which I have shared; I can only say that the late Government did what it could with its crippled resources. Should the future be more prosperous, the matter is one which as a question of hard fact cannot fail to attract the attention of those who are responsible.

In the matter of relationships with the public it must be a source of general gratification to know that in many districts, and particularly in this district, efforts to secure greater co-operation and understanding between police officers and Union Boards have borne fruit. I spoke of this subject last year and have been particularly gratified to observe this continued improvement. It has been shewn in practice that active and sympathetic interest on the part of police officers in matters of local welfare has in fact resulted in better mutual understanding and greater co-operation between them and the local bodies both in the improvement of the countryside and in their common efforts against crime. That much still remains to be done is clear from the heavy incidence of dacoity in this Province. It is true that the past year shows an improvement on its predecessor in a smaller number of dacoities and a considerably larger number of Village Defence Parties: but nothing but the closest and most active co-operation between the thana police and the authorities in charge of the rural police can achieve further progress in protecting the villages against this constant peril; for my part

I feel sure that the way of co-operation and mutual understanding is the only road to success.

I have dwelt as briefly as I can on these matters which are of general interest both to yourselves and to the public at large; but I would like to speak to you more particularly about a matter to which I have already referred—the relationship between myself as Governor and you as servants of the Crown. I have said that that relationship is a special one. I would go further and say that to my mind it constitutes an asset of the very greatest value to the success of responsible Government. In India as in England the ties that unite the Crown and the services of the Crown are as real as they are intangible. I venture to say that there is no servant of the State in India, however humble, who would not stand with pride before his Sovereign in the consciousness of work well done: there is no servant of the State however remiss or unworthy who has not at some time been reminded of his duty by remembrance of the loyalty that he owes to his King.

What I wish to impress on you is that the new order of things involves no conflict of loyalties, for the whole authority of the Crown stands behind its constitutional advisers acting in accordance with law.

You are aware that the Governor has been charged with a special responsibility in respect of the public services—but I have already tried to make it clear that such a responsibility on his part does not exclude the responsibility of the Minister. It is to the Minister that the services of the Crown

committed to his charge should look for their guidance, their welfare and their protection : and it is through him if need be that the personal consideration of the Governor is to be invoked. On that foundation only can rest the mutual confidence between the Crown, the advisers of the Crown and the services of the Crown which is an indispensable condition of ordered and progressive Government.

It is that harmony of loyalties which constitutes one of the greatest gifts that the political experience of Britain has been able to contribute to responsible and constitutional Government. To preserve that tradition of harmony in its integrity is a trust shared by myself as the representative of the King-Emperor in this Province and my Ministers as his constitutional advisers in all matters committed to their charge. It is a trust which, I believe both they and I and our successors on both sides will be proud to discharge in partnership.

In token of the bonds that unite the Crown and its servants I shall now proceed formally to invest with decorations those officers and men whose services to the King-Emperor and to this Province are now to be recognised.

His Excellency's Address at the Convocation of the Dacca University on the 14th July 1937.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I do not to-day intend to take up a great deal of your time for I know that you will be anxious to hear the address of the distinguished speaker who is to follow me—the first Chief Minister of Bengal. The Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq is, as your Vice-Chancellor has just pointed out, no stranger to this University having been associated with it since its foundation; and it is therefore particularly appropriate that he should give the first Convocation Address to be made under the new constitutional order.

Standing before you to-day as Chancellor for the fifth and last occasion I am forcibly reminded of the changes which the hand of time has wrought. I have seen two Vice-Chancellors lay down the reins of office and to-day in the place of Dr. A. F. Rahman appointed to the Public Service Commission we welcome a new Vice-Chancellor for the first time to these halls. Dr. Rahman was the first Indian to hold this exalted office, and when two years ago I made some reference to this fact I also said that his name would be known in years to come not only within the University but in wider spheres. His tenure of the Vice-Chancellorship was perhaps more brief than even I could have foreseen at that time, but yet I think my prophecy has not been falsified. In welcoming Dr. Majumdar to his place

we recognise in an exalted position one who for some years now has worked amongst us and in whom from our knowledge of him we may justifiably repose every confidence for the future. I take this opportunity of thanking him for the very kind references he has made to me in the course of the most interesting and eloquent speech to which we have just listened. The Vice-Chancellor's address is indeed full of interest to those familiar with the University, but I think that to the wider public before whom to-day's proceedings will eventually come the most encouraging part of his review is that which is devoted to the future development of the University. It is some time since we have had to talk of anything but the cutting down of expenditure, since we had to consider anything but minimum requirements and the means by which with a little pruning here and a little sacrifice there, we could struggle along until better times hove in sight. I would not be so imprudent as to say that prosperity is yet firmly and permanently established. But released from the necessity of preserving a miserly attitude the University can now look about it with a new feeling of confidence. The acceptance by Government of the report of Dr. Jenkins to which the Vice-Chancellor has just referred, will enable you to look forward to a period of years in which you will have leisure and opportunity for the prudent development of your activities. It is a source of profound satisfaction to me personally that the release of the University from a position of humiliating and cramping dependence should have come about during my tenure of office as Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor has referred to a sum of money collected during the time of Lord Lytton towards the re-institution of the Professorship of Sanskrit. I can assure you that I have not been oblivious of the existence of this sum and if I am not in a position to-day to make a formal announcement of its transfer to the University, now that a Chair of Sanskrit has been established, I have every reason to believe that the formal transfer of the investment to the University is only a matter of time, provided that the University itself is in a position to guarantee the permanence of the Sanskrit Chair.

It is of much interest to learn of the success which is attending the University in its endeavour to promote the study of agricultural science. In India as a whole, and especially in the part of this Province which the University of Dacca is primarily designed to serve, there is no more important subject. It may often be a mistake for a University to pay too much attention to a particular subject; and to speak of a "specialist University" would be a contradiction in terms. The dangers of specialisation are obvious, and threaten the individual no less than the corporate body. I have heard research defined as "getting to know more and more about less and less until one finally knows everything about nothing". Nevertheless there is no harm in judicious emphasis on an important subject, and in bringing the study of Agricultural Science to the fore, the University will be rendering to the community a service which from its circumstances and environment it is particularly well qualified to render.

I am interested also in the project for the establishment of a Medical College. In commenting on this, and indeed on all matters affecting the University in which my Government also is interested, I feel I should give some explanation of the position of myself as Governor and Chancellor under the new political system. The Chancellor of the University is one to whom the University looks as its titular head, and as one who, besides discharging certain statutory duties, is in a position to use whatever legitimate means lie to his hand for the good of the University when need arises. Such influence as I may possess through the opportunities which I have both as Chancellor and Governor of meeting and talking with persons of influence and importance in this Province or elsewhere, have always been at the service of the University. My position as Governor does however preclude me from approaching on your behalf one body of much influence in the Province—namely the Council of Ministers. The Governor has shed whatever share of responsibility he may have borne in the past for administrative matters of this kind; and whatever hopes may have been kindled of Government assistance by those responsible for previous administrations, it is to none but the Hon'ble Minister and his colleagues that the University may now look for the realisation of such hopes. My interest in the welfare of the University is however in no way diminished, and I can assure you that in the future as in the past, this interest will find expression in all the legitimate ways and means at my command.

Before I close this brief address I feel that I must add my tribute to that of the Vice-Chancellor

in memory of the late Rai Sasanka Coomar Ghose Bahadur. His affection for the University and the services to which this prompted him, will long be remembered in this place.

I will now stand between you and Mr. Fazlul Huq no longer, except to offer my congratulations to all those who have to-day received their degrees. I wish them the fullest measure of success in whatever may be the paths on which they are now about to enter.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Conference
of Union Boards of Dacca district on
15th July 1937.***

MR. SHAHABUDDIN AND GENTLEMEN,

It was with genuine pleasure that I accepted the invitation of the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government to preside at the opening stages of this Conference and to distribute rewards and certificates to those who in the rural areas of this district have rendered good and unselfish service to the people of their Unions.

Meeting you as I do to-day for the last time in a conference of this nature I have been deeply touched by the generous references that your District Board Chairman, Mr. Shahabuddin, and your spokesman Maulvi Sekandar Ali—have made to me personally. Five years—it is more than five years now—is no negligible period in an individual career—but it is a short time in which to grapple with problems so grave and complicated as those that have confronted the Province of Bengal: if I have been able with the help of loyal and able colleagues to make any contribution towards bringing some of those problems into a clearer light and finding some approach towards their solution, I count myself doubly fortunate both in the support that I have received from men of good will in the country and in the generous appreciation that you have vouchsafed me.

Yet I would be the last to claim that the major problems of rural Bengal have been brought to

solution : our feet are set on the way but a long journey lies before us : it will be for others to survey the country that lies ahead—to map out the path for the future and to guide and inspire your progress. In the nature of things it is to Ministers responsible to the Legislature that you will look to initiate the policies of the future and to put them into operation. Yet, as I conceive it, the Governor will have his part to play. Relieved though he is of the task of initiating policy it will still be his duty and his privilege to lend the full weight of his support to measures initiated by his advisers for the social and economic welfare of the King-Emperor's subjects : the discharge of that duty will continue to call for a full understanding on his part of the problems that confront his Ministers, and for such knowledge as the Governor can himself acquire of the lives, the needs and the progress of all classes of people in the Province. Personally I shall carry away the happiest memories of these periods, all too brief, that I have been able to spend away from the routine of official business, among the rural people of Bengal, and I regret that on this present occasion my stay at Dacca has proved too short and my engagements too numerous to permit of my leaving the beaten track once again and finding my way into the interior of your district.

The Chairman of your District Board has given us a glimpse of his own experiences on tour in remote places. I have no doubt that the contacts thus established and the knowledge thus gained are of the greatest value to the fruitful development of village self-government and the full exploitation of its possibilities.

Dacca is pre-eminently one of those districts in which the awakened consciousness of the rural classes has found vent in constructive works of rural improvement carried out by organised local effort and by voluntary labour gladly given and wisely applied. I will not repeat what I have said on previous occasions regarding the value of such service both to those who give it and to those who receive. I am confident that the experience once gained will not be lost. Let me say however that in the scheme of things in Bengal the importance of Union Boards is not to be measured by their size: small they may be—negligible they are not. Their close contact with the people, the opportunities they offer for public service and the record of accomplishment and initiative that you yourselves have shown establish them as one of the most potent agencies for the regeneration of the villages of Bengal.

You have been good enough to refer with appreciation to the help and guidance you have received from the officers of Government in this district and Division and I would like to take this opportunity of associating myself with that expression of appreciation. Apart from the leadership and sympathy of the higher officers of Government in the mofussil, I am well aware of the great volume of useful and devoted work done by members of the Provincial services in subdivisions and rural circles—work which is essential and of the greatest value however inconspicuous it may be and however infrequently it may meet with formal and public recognition on an occasion of this kind. The contribution of officers of Government to rural development has lost none of its value

under the new constitutional scheme. The Governments now established in India need and are entitled to service from their public officers no less responsible and no less generous than their predecessors enjoyed; for the initiation and control of policy the responsibility has passed to Ministers: for advice on technical and administrative matters, for the loyal and imaginative execution of policy, for the co-ordination of local activities between officers of the various departments, for the smoothing out of local difficulties and the inspiration of local effort the unflagging labour of the public services will remain an asset of the greatest value to Governments and people alike. For my part as the constitutional head of the Crown services in this Province I shall not fail to encourage by precept and example the wholehearted efforts of my officers in carrying out such measures for the benefit of the rural areas as my advisers in the discharge of their responsibilities may undertake.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Eastern
Bengal Saraswat Samaj Convocation
at Dacca on 16th July 1937.***

LEARNED PUNDITS OF THE SARASWAT SAMAJ,

Let me first of all congratulate you upon the entry of your Samaj into the sixtieth year of its existence.

The attainment of the age of three score years may perhaps seem of but moderate significance to the Pundits, whose study embraces the most ancient of philosophies and languages, and a religion that has flourished for untold centuries in these plains. The Samaj may seem to them but a thing of yesterday alongside the venerable system of learning which it seeks to promote and maintain. The rites and ceremonies with which they have celebrated the Coronation of their present Majesties are no doubt based on forms with which countless Kings have been hallowed and sanctified to the service of their peoples in ancient and forgotten Kingdoms of this land. The structure of their educational system, on which the Pundits rightly pride themselves as affording a means whereby *Guru* and disciple may be brought most closely into contact, has the authority of many generations of experience to vouch for its value and efficacy.

Yet the system of education to which you lend your support has features which must seem peculiar to the western mind. We know of the system of medical attendance which is said to

prevail in China, whereby the doctor is paid only so long as the client is well. If the client falls sick the doctor's fee ceases; and to spur on his efforts to effect a cure he has the knowledge not only that his reputation may thereby be enhanced, but also that his pocket will once again be replenished. We have heard too, but more from progressives than from traditionalists, of the ideal of free and universal education. But it is welcome to find a society which expects of its members that in accordance with ancient tradition it should be the teacher who will give his best efforts for the upkeep of the school, whilst the pupil need do no more than lend an attentive ear. To those of us who are parents and have had to pay school and University fees, a system of this kind would have offered many attractions.

The Pundits will excuse my commenting in a lighter vein on a subject which lies so near to their hearts. None realises better than I the sacrifices which they undergo to maintain their traditional ways in these times, and to see that the culture of their fathers is not lost in a materialistic world. Their educational system demands a real love of knowledge in the teacher, and the belief that the instructed pupil will ultimately share his sentiment. It is this attitude of mind which in the dark ages preserved alight the lamp of learning; and when in what we are pleased to call more enlightened times the world is aglitter with knowledge often flashy and superficial, it is by the mellow rays of this same lamp that men may still see plainly and see well.

I am interested to hear of the results of the examinations held under the auspices of the Samaj, and take this opportunity publicly to congratulate those who have just received prizes and awards at my hands. The pleasure you have expressed at the elevation to high office of Mr. Fazul Huq, Mr. Rahman and Khan Bahadur Azizul Haque shows that the Pundits, though their work associates them with the past, yet follow with interest the present fortunes of their well-wishers. I am also gratified to learn of the high value which you place on the services of several officers of my Government.

I am pleased to hear of the munificence of various benefactors of the Samaj, and rejoice with the Samaj at this evidence of the esteem in which they and the cause they have at heart are held. In mentioning the question of a Government grant, I am afraid the Pundits are approaching me for what it is no longer in my power to give. Under the new order of things I can do no more than transmit your request to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who is also Minister for Education. The confidence which you have just expressed in him will no doubt serve as an assurance that your request will be carefully and sympathetically considered. For myself, I shall have much pleasure in contributing again a donation of Rs. 750 to the funds of the Samaj.

I have once more to sympathise with you in the losses which you have sustained in the course of a year by the death of several of your valued supporters. Such losses are I know heavy, but whilst your Samaj and similar associations endure we cannot call them irreparable.

Finally, I have been much gratified, Learned Pundits, by your very kind references to myself and thank you most heartily for your solicitude for my welfare in the future. The memory of your earnest band of scholars in a far country will indeed remain with me long after I have left these shores. Let me assure you that my best wishes for the prosperity of the Samaj and for the success of the objects for which the Pundits strive will endure wherever I may chance to be.

His Excellency's Address to Cub A. T. Salauddin Ahmed of Comilla, when presenting him with the "Gilt Cross for Gallantry" on 16th July 1937 at the Combined Youth Display at Dacca.

CUB A. T. SALAUDDIN AHMED,

While passing by a tank your attention was attracted by cries for help and you ran up to find a young girl in danger of being drowned. Though others could not help her you swam in and rescued her at the risk of your own life. You were under 12 years of age when you performed this brave act. In recognition of this act of gallantry His Excellency the Chief Scout for India has been pleased to award you a "Gilt Cross for Gallantry".

His Excellency directs me to convey to you his congratulations and to these I add my own. I have much pleasure in presenting you with the Gilt Cross.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Farewell
Addresses presented at Dacca on 20th
July 1937.***

COMMISSIONERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY, MEMBERS
OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND DISTRICT MOSLEM
FEDERATION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with mixed feelings that I rise to reply to the addresses that have been presented and at the same time publicly to take farewell of Dacca and its people.

It is nearly five years ago to a day that I first came up the Buriganga to visit your ancient city set in a land of broad rivers and beautified by the gardens of Ramna beyond. I might describe my first visit as a voyage of discovery as indeed have been so many of my journeys in the five years that have followed. On that occasion you laid before me an account of the needs and problems of your city and your district as they presented themselves to you—problems every one of which involved a personal responsibility on my part to study and in consultation with my then colleagues to seek for a solution. To-day, as you have realised, it is no longer my responsibility as the Governor of this Province to decide those matters of administrative or legislative policy with which, as local self-governing bodies or as representatives of the rural population, you are most closely concerned. That knowing this you should have come to pay me so generous a tribute of farewell is a source to me personally of sincere gratification.

Yet, though a Governor may no longer be responsible for the solution of your problems, let me assure you that he is no less concerned than ever to appreciate and to study them; if I may so put it without appearing to be flippant, the principles of democracy do not demand that the Sovereign or his representative should be singled out among the community as the only person in the State who is not entitled to have an opinion of his own. On the contrary, it seems to me that for the Governor to cease to be interested merely because he is no longer primarily responsible would be rendering poor recognition to his constitutional advisers and poor service to the people of his Province. How far his opinions may be of value if they are wanted must depend very largely on the material upon which they are based and upon the opportunities that he himself may obtain to study and attempt to understand the problems with which his advisers are faced and which they are responsible for solving. How far his opinions may count must depend in the long run on how far they are wanted and what they are worth when forthcoming: how far they may be expressed save in the intimacy of the Council Chamber or with the authority of his advisers is another matter; but this I would ask you in all sincerity to believe that whenever and wherever they are expressed they will have but one object in view—to further the cause of ordered and constitutional progress in this Province.

Bearing this in mind you will not expect from me, Gentlemen of the Municipality, a statement

of policy regarding the subject of detenus upon which, though not municipal in nature, you have been moved to express the depth of your feeling. You have, I believe, already expressed your feelings on this question to Ministers and have received from the Chief Minister, as their spokesman, an indication of the manner in which my Government is approaching this problem and the general line of policy which they propose to adopt. I do not propose to amplify or interpret what my Ministers have said; and in fact with the session of the legislature so near at hand, it would be doubly inappropriate for me to make now any detailed statement of the kind which it would be eminently fitting for Ministers to make them. I may, however, dispose here and now of the suggestion that the apparent delay on the part of Ministers in making definite and final pronouncements in this matter has been due to some disagreement between myself and my Ministers. I can say categorically that there has been no such disagreement and I cherish the hope and belief that no such disagreement will in fact arise. Ministers have their duty and I mine, but our responsibilities in this matter are coextensive. Moreover, we have to decide upon exactly the same material and we share the natural desire that the enforcement of emergency measures, involving preventive detention without normal legal process and various other abnormal restrictions upon personal liberty, should be brought to an end as soon as due consideration for the public safety will allow. I would however ask you to bear in mind the responsibility with which Ministers are charged in this matter—a responsibility which is

in no way ousted or undermined by the existence of a special responsibility on the part of the Governor: that responsibility with which Ministers are charged requires and justifies on their part a thorough and conscientious examination of the whole matter: such an examination they have been engaged in making and I would ask you in all fairness to await its results.

May I say one thing more on a note which I should hesitate to strike if this were not a very personal occasion. I am drawing near the end of my term as Governor of Bengal—a term which I know was heralded by copious references in the Press to my experiences or supposed experiences in Ireland. I recognise with gratitude that since I came here the vast majority of people have been content to judge me by my work in Bengal and that no doubt is as it should be. But I am aware that even now hints are dropped here and there that a liberal view could never be expected from anyone who had served the Crown in Ireland during what were called the “troubles”. I have never talked about my work in Ireland. What I did or refrained from doing is a matter in which I was answerable not to public opinion but to the British Cabinet and I would not say what I am about to say even now were it not that by so doing I may remove misapprehensions and thereby serve a public interest. With this in mind I think there is one disclosure which after a lapse of 16 years may be made without impropriety: When in 1921 in pursuance of a treaty the British Government were about to transfer to Irish Ministers responsibility for what is now the Irish Free State

there were many Irish prisoners still in gaol as a result of the preceding conflict. As the principal permanent adviser of Cabinet Ministers in such matters I had to consider the situation and with full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances and after weighing up possible consequences and reactions with the greatest care I recommended the release of those prisoners. That course as a matter of fact was followed. Whether it was right or not is not now in question and I must ask you not to draw any analogy as regards the present situation from this personal reminiscence: the facts and circumstances were so different from those of Bengal that no practical inference can be drawn for us—except this one inference which you may perhaps be good enough to draw, that I do not approach and never have approached such questions with any bias in favour of keeping people in custody merely for the sake of doing so.

In the matter of which I have spoken I have a contingent responsibility—however remote that contingency may be. In the other matters to which you have referred I fear that it would be beyond the scope of my authority to give you a reply; cheap light and plentiful water are among the foremost amenities that a city of this importance may strive to obtain and I shall not fail to transmit to the responsible departments of my Government the representations that you have made on the subject; I shall, I may add, await with interest and sympathy the advice that may be tendered to me on both of these matters, and I have no doubt that such advice will be based on a full study of these problems by Ministers anxious to discharge their

responsibilities with competence and imagination; but when such advice has been constitutionally tendered I shall as in duty bound be guided by it.

You have been good enough, Gentlemen of the District Board and Gentlemen of the Dacca District Muslim Federation, to recall certain of the legislative and administrative measures with which I have been associated and which bear more directly upon the lives of the rural people. A few days ago at the Conference of Union Board Presidents in this city I had the opportunity of observing how keenly alive to possibilities of progress are the rural inhabitants of this district; if it has been vouchsafed to me to make any contribution towards rekindling the flame of vitality and hope among the villages of Bengal, I am grateful for the opportunity and grateful also to those who have bestirred themselves among the people to direct their energies into constructive channels.

The task of dealing with the burden of rural indebtedness has passed the stage of legislation but is still in the early stages of practical administration. I can however say with the full authority of my Ministers that Government are firmly resolved to see this task through.

In this and in many other matters affecting rural welfare it is a matter of the sincerest gratification to me personally that projects conceived under the previous regime have been found worthy of acceptance and development among the many preoccupations of an enlarged and responsible cabinet coming to their task with fresh minds and augmented resources. The seal of that approval no

less than the generous words you have used to-day is a tribute that I shall always value; it gives me reason to hope that, however transitory the work of an individual may be, some of my labours may not have been in vain.

I could have wished that in the course of these five years the preoccupations of office and the pressure of Government business had allowed me to spend longer periods in this Eastern capital and in the byeways of rural Bengal. On this occasion too, as so often before, my stay has had to be curtailed; it may be, if proposals that have been mooted are brought to fruition at the desire of the legislature, my successors will be able to make good my own unwilling lapses as regards the sojourn in Dacca; of this at any rate I feel sure that the warmth of your welcome and the charms of your city and countryside will render their visits to you as happy as the memories that I shall carry away.

His Excellency's Speech at a Conference held at Government House, Calcutta, on 26th July 1937 regarding the formation of a Waterways Board.

GENTLEMEN,

As you all know this conference has been called to consider the question of bringing into operation the Bengal Waterways Act; that is a matter entirely within the sphere of duties of the Minister under the new constitution. I have been asked to inaugurate this conference, I suppose, because I constitute an element of continuity in this matter as a link between the old administration and the new. This Act—the Bengal Waterways Act—has been on the statute book since June 1934 and it is an Act which, as you may know, has a long history behind it,—a history going back to the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1928. That Commission ranged over a wide field and many of its recommendations are taking a new lease of life owing to circumstances familiar to your minds. That Commission recommended the appointment of a technical committee of experts to examine and report on the advisability of the formation of a Waterways Board in Bengal. It did more than that. It definitely supported the principle of administrative separation of the organisation in Bengal for navigation from the organisation responsible for matters of irrigation and drainage. This Government accepted the views of the Committee and they set up a technical committee of experts as

recommended by the Committee. That Committee was presided over by Mr. Hopkyns before my time. The Committee went into the matter with very great thoroughness; they toured extensively, they consulted local opinion all over the Province, in Eastern Bengal and in Assam, and they put forward definite recommendations including a recommendation to the effect that a Waterways Trust should be set up. You know the subsequent history. A Bill was introduced and was placed on the Statute Book, as I have said before, in June 1934. The Waterways Act, as you all know, would in the ordinary course have been put into operation long ago but its operation was long delayed because of the two assurances given by Government. The first assurance given so long ago as 1932, when the subject was being discussed in the Legislature, was to the effect that if the Act were passed it would not be brought into operation so long as the state of economic depression, from which this Province in common with others was suffering, continued; and the second assurance which the Government gave during the last stage of the passage of the Act was to the effect that the Act would not be brought into operation without prior consultation with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and other interests. Well, the position at the moment is, I am authorised to say, that Ministers have taken up consideration of this matter and subject to anything that may emerge from this consultation with interests affected they are of opinion that the time has come when the Act should be put into operation. No one who has travelled in Eastern Bengal, as I have been able to do to a certain extent, will fail to realise

the vital importance of improving the great system of waterways in Bengal. From the point of view of those who have to move goods or passengers, the waterways of East Bengal stand in the same position as railways and roads in other provinces in India. In the case of railways the traffic bears all charges. As regards the roads, since they came to be developed under an organised scheme steps have been taken to ensure that the users of the roads make a substantial contribution towards their upkeep. In the case of waterways the position has been somewhat different. What Government have to decide is whether the waterways in East Bengal, occupying the position they do, are to be treated in a manner comparable to railways and roads and do in fact constitute a separate interest justifying separate treatment. The Legislature when it passed the Act answered that question in the affirmative and decided that at the proper time a Waterways Board should be constituted. From the point of view of technical efficiency I think there can be no doubt that the Royal Commission were right in saying that there should be an organic separation of the administration of navigable waterways as such from the other responsibilities which now rest on the Irrigation Department. The crucial question, as in many cases, is the question of finance and I think all present will probably agree that there is no use setting up a Waterways Board (necessarily a rather expensive type of organisation) unless that Waterways Board is able to do more for the waterways than it would be possible for the existing organisation to do. Under the Act the Board has to take

over the existing equipment and resources of Government so far as they can be regarded as earmarked for the maintenance of navigation; and, in addition, under the Act Government have to make a statutory contribution which amounts to Rs. 2½ lakhs. When the Bill was introduced the figure was put a little lower than that and it was raised by an amendment in the Legislature, but Government resisted the demand that the figure should be pitched still higher. The Act, however, does contain provisions for supplementing the resources at the disposal of the Board by certain forms of taxation, and I should imagine that it is with regard to this aspect of the scheme embodied in the Act that you would especially desire to have an opportunity of bringing your views to the notice of Government. Government recognise that the onus of decision lies with them. But in fulfilment of the assurance that was given by my predecessor I should give you this opportunity of putting before Government fully and frankly what you feel about the general question of the immediate setting up of a Waterways Board with the concomitant imposition of some form of taxation within the scheme embodied in the Act, to ensure that the Board should have the resources necessary to enable them to do justice to their task.

I do not wish to anticipate the course of discussion and I know you will state your views frankly. I have no doubt that Government will give the fullest consideration to anything you say when they make their final decision. But my own view is that vitally important interests where navigation is concerned will not receive the attention, they

deserve among the conflicting interests in the Legislature unless the waterways and interests connected with them are made a responsibility of a separate organisation. The Board contemplated in the Act is a Board which includes all the representatives of the interested bodies. It would therefore be in a favourable position to give due weight and consideration to all aspects of the question and pronounce an expert opinion.

With these few introductory words I will leave you and the Hon'ble Minister will take the chair. As I have said before I am sure you will give the Minister the benefit of your views freely and frankly in consideration of the assurance that Government on their part will give the fullest consideration to your views.

His Excellency's Address to the Legislature on the 29th July 1937.

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE BENGAL LEGISLATURE,

Before your respective Chambers meet for the formal transaction of business, and before the stress and strain of the ensuing session comes upon you to demand your undivided attention, I have taken this opportunity as the representative in this Province of His Majesty the King-Emperor to welcome you here assembled together and to wish you God speed in your labours.

I am speaking to you at the beginning of what I trust will be a period of fruitful and continuous political development—and, if I may express a personal opinion, I think the pace of that development will be determined in practice not by the pronouncements of any formal tribunal but by the actual course of history now in the making in India.

Addressing you as I do for the first, and in all probability the last, time, I am fully conscious that some special significance may be attached to what I omit to say no less than to what I may say on this occasion. Let me then tell you at once that though circumstances might arise in which it would be appropriate—and perhaps necessary—for a Governor in addressing the legislature to make a declaration of the policy of the Provincial Executive—this present occasion does not in my judgment call for any such pronouncement.

A declaration of policy might be called for either upon the request of Ministers or by some necessity on the part of the Governor himself to make his own position clear in relation to a particular matter; in the matters that are likely to come before you during the present session my Ministers will themselves present before you and justify the policy that they intend to follow—and I am happy to say that I see no reason to anticipate the operation of any contingent responsibility of mine in such a manner as to require or justify an independant statement of my own position in relation to any act or proposal of the Executive Government.

Parliamentary practice at Westminster has accustomed us to the conception of the King's speech as the vehicle for a general declaration by the Ministry of their legislative and general programme for the session. In reply to that speech a loyal Address is presented, and with that genius for illogical adaptation of historic forms to modern uses that characterises so much of the constitution of the United Kingdom, the debate on that Address has come to be regarded as the proper occasion for the opposition to formulate their criticisms of the proposals of Government and to expound their own views.

Here in India the position is different: the Governor in addressing the legislature does so not upon the responsibility of his Ministers but by virtue of a statutory right vested in himself. I have no intention on this occasion of taking advantage of an address, the terms of which cannot

be thrown open to general debate, to refer in a controversial spirit to matters which must of necessity be the subject of keen debate in both of your Houses—debate in which it will be for my Ministers to justify the courses which with a full sense of their responsibilities they intend to pursue.

You may infer from this that there is no matter of ministerial policy likely to be laid before you in which I have felt called upon in the discharge of any responsibility vested in me to be guided otherwise than by the advice of my Ministers.

There are however matters of constitutional interest with which I might appropriately deal. The first of these touches indirectly upon a question which, as I fully realize, has its acutely controversial aspects—the question of the Bengal detenus. I do not propose to deal with the controversial aspects of that question but I feel that you are entitled to know from me not the policy that my Government intend to pursue, but the manner in which I view in general my own special responsibilities in this matter and the respective parts that Ministers and the Governor may be called upon to play in approaching a question of that nature.

I think I can state the matter very simply without sacrifice either of clarity or of precision. Under section 52 of the Government of India Act the Governor has a special responsibility for the prevention of any grave menace to peace and tranquillity. But, as I have already said at Dacca, this special responsibility in no degree ousts or

undermines the primary responsibility that rests on Ministers. If a Ministry were to say that they recognised no responsibility for preventing a grave menace to peace or tranquillity, would any electorate or legislature wish to see them remain in office? The responsibility which rests upon Ministers in this matter, like many other responsibilities which are theirs, is not specifically defined in the Act simply because it is inherent in the very conception of that responsible Government which the Act confers.

This then is a case in which Ministers are called upon to discharge their responsibility to the Province. The problem is a complicated matter of long standing which they have had to examine conscientiously and minutely. It had none of the elements of grave and sudden emergency which would justify a Governor in seeking to impose a rigid time limit within which he might require the advice of Ministers. In a matter of this kind it is only when their examination of the problem has been completed and they have made up their minds at least provisionally as to the advice they propose to tender—it is only then that the Governor becomes entitled to claim as a matter of constitutional right that his view of the precise policy to be pursued should be heard and considered before a decision is promulgated. In fact when that stage was reached in relation to this particular question it was clear that I should not be called upon to take a view of my responsibilities different from that which Ministers took of theirs.

But you are entitled to know what would happen in a case of this kind if a conflict, which in spite of

all efforts on both sides proved irreconcilable, were unfortunately to arise. In that unhappy event, which I refuse to contemplate as within the region of probability, the Governor's view would undoubtedly prevail, subject to his ultimate responsibility to Parliament. Ministers would thereupon become entitled to make a public statement of their position showing the extent of the conflict and how it had arisen. That is a state of things which, arising on an issue of such intrinsic importance, I should regard as a great public misfortune and which I would certainly strain every effort to avert. It would be a misfortune in its constitutional reactions. It would be no less a misfortune, I would venture to observe, from the standpoint of all those of whatever political persuasion who are anxious to see normal conditions restored as speedily as possible throughout the Province. For it is clear that a sustained and reasoned policy involving no independent action by the Governor and no divergence of opinion between Ministers themselves—a policy moreover in the pursuit of which Ministers in the discharge of their duty to the Province may justifiably appeal for the co-operation of prudent men among all sections of the community—it is clear that such a policy can achieve far more and achieve it more swiftly and more successfully without risk of adverse reactions than would be possible if the attempt at appeasement were so far to miscarry as to be itself a cause of tension and discord. I will not elaborate further. I plead for good-will and a sympathetic understanding on the part of all who may be called upon to pronounce a responsible judgment in this grave matter.

I would only add with all earnestness and humility that I should be a happy and proud man if after five and a half strenuous and difficult years I could leave the shores of India with the confident belief that the time was not far distant when this Province of Bengal would no longer present any of the unenviable features which for more than a generation have distinguished it from other Provinces in India.

I pass now to other topics. You will shortly have laid before you by the Finance Minister the budget for the current financial year: that budget will include provision for the amounts already expended in carrying on the administration since the 1st of April last and for expenditure required to carry on existing services during the remainder of the financial year, as well as for certain items of new expenditure indicative so far as they go of the immediate programme of the Bengal Ministry. There will also be laid before you legislative measures dealing with matters of far reaching importance. In this connection and at this moment, addressing you as I do for the first time, I cannot but be struck by the profound change that has come about in my own position as Governor with respect to these matters. On previous occasions when I have addressed the Provincial Legislature I have done so as a Governor who had had to take his share of direct personal responsibility for every measure, financial or legislative, promoted by his Government in the legislature. In the field of what were known as reserved departments the Governor had an active responsibility for the decisions of the Governor in Council: in what were called the

transferred departments, however much in practice he might be guided by the advice of Ministers, the decision was constitutionally his : empowered as he was under the Act now repealed to overrule his Ministers at his discretion in any matter, he shared in theory and in fact the responsibility for their decisions. Hereafter Ministers will be solely responsible to the representatives of the people for every legislative measure that may be submitted by Government for enactment in either of the Chambers assembled here to-day. That statement, which I make without qualification, I believe to be absolutely true and it is in my view an accurate index of the extent to which responsibility has been transferred from the Governor to a representative Ministry.

In the region of finance, always the touch-stone of popular control, responsibility under the previous constitution vested in the Governor in Council whether the expenditure was to be made under the direction of a Minister or under that of an Executive Councillor : in other words Finance was a reserved subject. Under the present constitution that responsibility for finance vests in Ministers : formerly the Governor in the exercise of a personal responsibility gave or withheld his prior consent to every measure introduced by any member of the Legislative Council which affected the finances of the Province : in now giving or withholding that consent the Governor personally has no greater voice than he has in the initiation of the policy for which the expenditure is to be provided.

I know of no financial provision likely to be laid before you for which the Governor in his discretion is responsible other than that required for certain salaries provisionally fixed, pending their determination by the Legislature, for the administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, for the Public Service Commission and for the conduct of my own secretarial business—matters which under the constitution fall outside the range of Ministerial responsibility. As regards the provision for matters in which the Governor is required to exercise his individual judgment what I have said at an earlier stage of this address will have made the position clear.

There are it is true, items of expenditure charged on the revenues, for which Ministers equally with the Governor are bound to make provision: the obligation may arise either from the Constitution Act itself or from legislation that you yourselves may pass: but in respect of those matters, unless and until the contrary is stated, the Governor has no responsibility separate from that of his Ministers.

Members of the Assembly, before I leave the topic of finance I may perhaps appropriately invite your attention to a change in the rules and standing orders relating to financial procedure which will, I think, be of considerable interest to yourselves. The effect of that change is that there are now only two time limits to discussion of demands for grants. There is one limit of 15 days in all set apart for the discussion of the demands for grants: the other limit is that of 2 days which is the maximum time that can be devoted to discussion of any one grant:

the former power of the Governor to allocate a specific period, frequently in practice brief, for each grant has disappeared and the result is that, subject only to the limits to which I have referred, the control of the time that shall be given up to the discussion of particular demands is transferred from Government to the critics of Government. The change is intentional and the modified procedure represents a fairly close approximation to the practice of the House of Commons: it has been adopted in the hope of facilitating that responsible and discriminating criticism which in relation to the business of supply is one of the most important functions of a constitutional opposition.

There is one further matter which it may be worth while to mention: it is not I think without constitutional interest and significance. Under the new Act the Governor as representative of the Sovereign becomes for the first time himself a part of the legislature. There is in fact a new legislative partnership established here, to correspond with that already existing in the United Kingdom and in every one of the great overseas Dominions of the Crown, between the Sovereign and the two Chambers of the legislature. It is in this capacity, I believe, and not in his capacity as the titular head of the Executive Government that the Governor is entrusted with certain of his discretionary powers: and it is in this capacity that the Governor, when assenting to legislation, will do so in His Majesty's name. There is one departure however from the model of Westminster which may be noticed and which is perhaps the more significant because it is a departure also from the scheme of the previous

Act. In England the Speaker upon election submits himself for the approbation of the Sovereign. In India too under the Act now repealed the selection of the President of a Provincial Legislature required the approval of the Governor. That requirement no longer obtains. In practice it may make little or no difference for it is difficult to conceive circumstances in which that approval would be withheld: in England during the course of several centuries there has been I believe only one such instance. Nevertheless I feel tempted to recall the fact that at Westminster the newly elected Speaker invariably takes occasion after receiving approval of his appointment to address to the Sovereign on behalf of the Commons a plea, in words that have history behind them, but none the less retain significance in these modern days, "that the most favourable construction shall be put upon all their proceedings": recalling this time-honoured formula I cannot help feeling a twinge of perhaps purely sentimental regret that occasion for the utterance and the acceptance of such a plea should not have been provided here. That formula seems to me to sum up the relationship of mutual respect and understanding upon which the foundations of democratic Government have been laid. But whether we utter that formula or not, surely it is not too much to hope that relations between the various organs of the State in an Indian Province and between community and community and class and class may some day be governed in the spirit of that formula by a readiness on the part of each to place the most favourable construction upon the proceedings of the others. We are

engaged in making a great experiment in democracy, an experiment in which many of us place high hopes. If the spirit to which I have referred prevails, I feel sure that sooner or later the experiment will be acknowledged to have been completely successful. I am on the other hand equally sure that democracy nourished on envy, hatred, malice or any other form of uncharitableness can never thrive in any part of the world. With these words I take leave of you, praying that Divine Providence may guide and direct your deliberations.

***His Excellency's Address to Scouter
Bhagat Singh Sacha In presenting him
with the Bronze Cross for Gallantry on
7th August 1937.***

SCOUTER BHAGAT SINGH SACHA,

On the 27th August 1936, a fire broke out at night in a garage containing some 20 or 30 motor omnibuses and situated near a petrol pumping station: though yourself unwell and not personally concerned you hastened to the scene in order to combat the fire. With the assistance of others you removed the omnibuses to a safe distance and prevented the fire from spreading to the houses close at hand. At personal risk you saved the life of two animals and your clothing was burnt while you were doing so.

In recognition of your gallantry on that occasion the "Bronze Cross" has been awarded to you. "In conveying to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, I take the opportunity to add to them my own.

His Excellency's Speech at the Rotary Club Luncheon on 10th August 1937.

[The Speech given below was spoken from notes. The opening remarks of a personal nature are not reproduced.]

In trying to make a contribution to your discussions I find myself in a double difficulty. First I have had no time to prepare an elaborate thesis, and, secondly, the scope of the matters about which I can talk in my present position of constitutional Governor is extremely limited. The Rotarian motto "Service before Self" has given me an idea. That motto if it had not already been appropriated would, I think, be an excellent one for the public service to take to itself. I do not mean that members of that service should be expected to render service without pay or service on such conditions of pay as would deny them the ordinary amenities for themselves and their families that men of equal ability could get in a commercial or professional career.

What the principle of service before self implies in the case of a public service is all the self-imposed discipline and the restrictions that are demanded of men in that position; and in that connexion I would like to say something this afternoon from my own experience about the position of the Civil Services in relation to Ministers. I shall not be speaking primarily with reference to Indian conditions but with reference to the traditions established in the Civil Service in Great Britain over a long period of years.

I am not suggesting for a moment that the traditions of the Indian Services are in any way inferior, intrinsically, to those of their counterpart at Home, but they have grown up under, and have had to be adapted to, conditions now profoundly modified by the advent of responsible Government. The British Civil Service has worked under conditions of responsible Government for several generations. It has developed traditions which have been held up to admiration all the world over, and there must be many who hope to see the traditions of the Public Services in India develop upon similar lines under the new conditions of responsible Government to which they now have to adapt themselves. I thought, therefore, that it might be of interest if I were to say something about the relations of Civil Servants to Ministers in the service which I know best.

The first thing is that the Civil Servant has nothing to do with politics. He must have no obvious political affiliations. He is entitled as an individual to his own political views. He has a vote and can use it as he likes. But he is not entitled to make a parade of any particular political faith. Here I must digress: I must try to make clear what I conceive to be the difference between policy and politics. To do that I must be forgiven if I make some reference to the functions of Ministers. Now, Ministers have two capacities. In the first place they are servants of the State, charged with a duty not to one party but to all parties and entitled in carrying out that duty constitutionally to the full resources, moral and material, that the State can provide. In that capacity they are paid

salaries and in that capacity have to formulate and put into execution administrative policies for which they take responsibility to the Legislature. Now once they have taken responsibility to the Legislature and are carrying out the administrative policy, they are not politicians but Ministers of the Crown. On the other side of the picture they have another capacity. They come into office as the leaders of political parties; to get themselves into office and to keep themselves there they need all the machinery of party propaganda and party organization, and that implies party connexions, party emblems and party programmes. That is politics.

With that side of the picture the Civil Servant has nothing whatsoever to do, but with the other side of the picture, with Ministers in their capacity as servants of the State, putting into force administrative policy for which they are responsible, the Civil Servant has everything to do. That then is what I mean when I say that a Civil Servant can make no parade of his political faith. Most Civil Servants at Home avoid political meetings altogether and for a Civil Servant to go no further even than to occupy a seat on a party platform would certainly be regarded as of very doubtful propriety. It is only by rigid avoidance of party connexion that a Civil Servant can give that unquestioning and unquestionable loyalty which every lawful Government is entitled to expect from him in the formulation, and the carrying out of its administrative policy. On the other hand it is sometimes said that the Civil Servant has nothing to do with policy. That is not true; but, before we

go any further we must stop for a moment to see the source from which servants of the Crown derive their authority.

Now there is quite a large class of Civil Servants who do not derive their authority by delegation from the Executive Government, for instance an officer exercising a judicial function does not derive his authority by delegation from the executive Government. He derives it from the Law itself and in exercising that authority he is answerable only to his own conscience and to the higher courts. Many of the functions of revenue officers and many of the functions of responsible police officers are not conferred upon them by the executive Government but by the Law. In such cases it will usually be found that there are provisions for control or for remedy of errors through the procedure of the courts or by appeal to some authority of a judicial or quasi-judicial nature which is concerned either solely or primarily with the interpretation of the law and not with the carrying out of executive orders.

It may be that in this country and in Great Britain the same officer discharges some of his duties in a statutory capacity such as I have described above, and other duties in an executive capacity by virtue of powers conferred upon him by the executive Government: and in passing let me say that there is nothing repugnant to British constitutional practice in such a combination of functions in one and the same person:

But the typical case with which I really want to deal is that of the officer whose responsibility has been delegated to him by superior executive

authority and who is answerable to that authority for the manner in which he discharges it. That officer is concerned with policy in this way. He must know enough about the policy of the Government he is serving for the time being to be able to judge whether anything that he proposes to do is likely to be a source of embarrassment to his Government. If it is likely to become a source of embarrassment it is his duty in that case to refer for instructions before taking action, unless circumstances of special urgency renders that impossible. Let me make it clear, however, that when I say this I am speaking not of duties imposed upon the officers by the law to be discharged according to law but of duties assigned to them as the agents of Government.

Then there is the important group of Civil Servants who are concerned in secretarial departments with helping and advising Ministers in the discharge of their duties. Those Civil Servants have no responsibility for policy that may be formulated. That is the responsibility of Ministers. But if the secretarial officer is to be of any real help he must be thinking of policy all the time. He should be thoroughly familiar with the broad lines of Government policy, and the departmental sphere in which he is engaged. He should be constantly considering in the light of his expert knowledge and experience how a particular line of action that may be under consideration or in course of execution may react upon policy.

At Home in my experience, the relation between a Minister and his senior departmental advisers is of a very close and intimate character. The Civil

Servant is the recipient of many confidences, and I have never known such confidence abused. If the Minister feels he can tell his departmental adviser frankly what his own difficulties are—difficulties with his political opponents and with his party colleagues—the adviser will be in position to apply far more intelligently and helpfully the departmental experience which it is his main function to contribute. It is upon the effectiveness of the partnership established between the Minister, irrespective of party, and his chief permanent advisers, that the practical results attained very largely depend. This applies not only in administration but also in the transaction of Parliamentary business. No head of a department can perform his duties adequately unless he is thoroughly familiar with Parliamentary forms and procedure.

That is broadly the position at Home. I realise well that the conditions cannot be exactly reproduced here. A tradition has to be built up by degrees and apart from everything else there is an element of lack of continuity here which does not exist at Home where every department contains senior officers of 20 to 30 years' experience of responsible work in the same department. But at this juncture when all is new there ought to be in the minds of all concerned some conscious ideals to which to work in the relations established between Ministers and their officials. For that reason I have thought it might be of interest to Rotarians whose primary concern is service, as well as to others whom these remarks may reach, to have these few first hand impressions of the system as it works in one of the oldest democracies in the world.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Opening
of the Silver Jubilee Maternity Ward
of the Howrah General Hospital on 1st
September 1937.***

MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITAL COMMITTEE, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN,

May I thank you for the cordial welcome which you have extended to me in this representative gathering of citizens of Howrah.

I share your regret that Mr. Symons, the President of your Managing Committee, has been unable through illness to be present in person and take part in this ceremony to the arranging of which he contributed so much. We are glad to know that he is making good progress and hopes to be back among you in restored health before long..

As he observed in the address which has been read on his behalf—to-day is a double occasion being both the opening of a new Maternity Ward and the first visit to Howrah for many years of a Governor of Bengal.

There is an old saying that "It is darkest under the lamp". In applying that saying to the case of unvisited Howrah I do not imply that Government House, Calcutta, is the sole and exclusive source of light in this metropolis; but it is true I think that the very proximity of the District of Howrah to the headquarters of Government accounts for its being so rarely the object of a ceremonial visit.

Nevertheless what we have heard this morning shows very clearly that Howrah has its own sources of light and progress, and the project of which this ceremony* to-day marks the successful accomplishment is itself a shining example of local initiative. It shows that the people of Howrah are ready to help themselves no less than their fellow countrymen in more remote places, and are not content merely to rely on such special advantages as they might hope to enjoy from proximity to the headquarters of Government and the second city of the Empire.

To-day's ceremony has a further special interest for me in that this Ward is yet another outcome of the inspiring effort made by Bengal at the time of Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V. It was my privilege to be President of the Fund in Bengal and it has given me the greatest pleasure to see, both in Calcutta and the mufussil, the efforts then made bearing fruit in the shape of projects of permanent value for the relief of suffering humanity.

I have heard to-day with appreciation of the generosity of Babu Radha Kissen Bagla and others whose names have been mentioned this morning and whose gifts will be commemorated by beds in the new Ward. I have observed with special interest that one of the substantial gifts which were mentioned comes from a lady who is herself a doctor. The project has won the support of the Municipality and industrial enterprises in this town—support which itself is a guarantee of strong and abiding sympathy.

The inauguration of this Maternity Ward to-day has a far wider significance than the opening of a new block of nineteen beds. It marks your recognition of a profound and growing change in outlook on the part not only of women but of men also—for men also have their part to play in seeing that their wives and daughters at this most crucial moment of human life have the benefit of the best that medical science can give. Those who have contributed to this project whether by money or by service have kindled yet another torch to light the path for the rising generation.

It is for this reason especially that I welcome the news that there will be a clinic and a training centre attached to this hospital and that it will be your aim not merely to provide for the actual time of childbirth but to care for and educate the expectant mother and spread wide among the women of this town advice and help during those first nine months of a child's life which, vitally important though they are, are apt—and not only in India—to be darkened by ignorance or prejudice.

It is fitting, as you have said, that this building erected for pious purposes should continue to serve God in the service of His creatures: it is fitting moreover that it should endure as a centre of light and hope for generations yet unborn. In so doing may it render a service no less acceptable than worship to the Almighty Father.

In this hope and belief I shall now proceed formally to declare open the Silver Jubilee Maternity Ward of the Howrah General Hospital.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Opening
of the Marwarl Rowing Club House on
5th September 1937.***

SIR BADRIDAS GOENKA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a pleasant change for us all to get away into this peaceful atmosphere, beside quiet waters and to be present at a ceremony which is connected with recreation and sport rather than with the more work-a-day preoccupations that usually beset us. For one afternoon we are away from all of those things, and I do not mean to spoil it with a long oration or to disturb wantonly the rest and quiet which this afternoon promises.

We have heard from the President nearly all that can be said about this Club. At the present stage it is looking forward to a future rather than boasting of a past. When we have agreed that it has a fine place in which to build up a history and acquire a past there is nothing much which we can add except our very good wishes for its success in the future both as a social centre and in the performances of its boats. Much of Bengal is a land of boats at least for a large part of the year; but it has been left for Calcutta to take up the sport in the form in which we see it on the Dhakuria Lake. It is a good sport and breeds its own special form of comradeship among those who take a peculiar pleasure in sharing together the slavery of the oar. It is a comradeship that endures long in after life when those who in younger days have been companions in adversity revisit the scene of their former exploits to enjoy the rare pleasure of

sitting at their ease to watch their successors go through the mill and criticise their efforts.

The last boat race which I myself witnessed was not between Putney and Mortlake, nor yet on the Dhakuria Lake. It was on the waters of the newly channelled Kurulia Khal in the District of Tippera and a most enthusiastic and well-supported race it was too. I cannot tell you how many crews there were competing, nor even how many persons there were in each crew. Boats had come from far and near, their crews dressed in gay colours and the boats themselves lavishly decorated. Not all of the crews were engaged in rowing or paddling. Some were there to beat time and some seemed to be there simply to encourage the oarsmen, though the roars of encouragement from the banks really left nothing to be desired. And if a boat sank it appeared to be all in the days work and everyone seemed to be as happy in the water as on dry land. The technique of your oarsmen will be of a different kind but I trust that the enthusiasm which I saw there will also attend the activities of this Club, and I must say that I am very pleased to be associated with the opening of yet another institution which will bring this sport within the reach of workers in our great metropolis. The Marwari community is well known for the success which it commands in business matters and also for the way in which it interests itself, as a community, in other matters of public importance. The team spirit is already strong amongst them and I am sure now that they are providing themselves with this further outlet for their energies in the shape of a rowing Club their traditions will be as

worthily upheld on the water as on dry land. Whatever new ventures this Club may float on the waters of the Dhakuria Lakes, we must all hope that they will meet with the success they deserve, and may none of them ever have the misfortune to end in liquidation.

I now shall have much pleasure in declaring the Marwari Rowing Club House open.

His Excellency's Speech at the Birthday Anniversary of St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, on 24th September 1937.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have heard from Mr. Fawcus a report full of interest and on behalf of you all I would like to associate myself with the appreciation he has expressed of the services of Mr. Purdie and his fellow workers. I was concerned to hear some days ago that Mr. Purdie was suffering in health from overwork, and I am very glad to see him here to-day and in good voice.

We cannot but feel that our part is incomplete without the father of this happy family, but we know that his thoughts are with us to-day. He is away on a long journey that many men would think twice of undertaking at his age—a journey of service to Kalimpong and its children in the furthest parts of the world. It is a reminder to us here of that larger family spread far and wide over the earth that has gone forth from these Homes trained for useful careers inspired with faith in the goodness of God, and fortified, we trust, with courage to win through in spite of the rebuffs and hardships of an imperfect world.

It is a young family as yet—for the Homes are only thirty-seven to-day, the eldest of their children must still be in the prime of life, and the great majority even now in their early years. Yet they have had time to show their mettle; I was reading the other day that as long ago as the Great War, when the Homes themselves were far short of their

twenty-first birthday, no fewer than twenty-two of their old boys had gone to France with the New Zealand contingent and the twenty who survived brought back between them four military medals and a Distinguished Conduct Medal; ninety boys on the Homes Roll of Honour served overseas—not an easy record for a school that started in 1900 with six little children and was less than nineteen years of age when the war ended. The wider family in the world beyond share in our happiness and pride; the response they have made to the Mansfield appeal—a response that has meant, I am sure, a real personal sacrifice—is both a vindication, if any were needed, of the work of the Homes and a source of hope and encouragement for the future.

I shall not be here to welcome Dr. Graham when he returns—though I hear that great things are in store for the year after next—I had been looking forward to seeing him in England or in Scotland but I regret that I shall miss him there too for he sails just a week before I get back. I know that when he comes back to Kalimpong to tell you of bonds renewed and strengthened in lands overseas, he will have a welcome befitting, in its sincerity and the warmth and depth of its affection, one who is so widely and so deservedly loved.

It is only a few days ago that I had a long letter from him, written on board ship on his way from New Zealand to Canada. He was enjoying himself in the spirit that never grows old and tells me that for the first time in his life he had just had the pleasure of a week with two Fridays in it. Why you should get two Fridays in a week when you are sailing from New Zealand to Canada is a

problem that I leave you to work out. I am quite sure that the boys and girls of Kalimpong Homes will know the answer far better than many of the grown-ups—always of course excepting the distinguished company present to-day. I must confess that in recent months I could have often done with an extra Friday in the week myself, and—strictly between ourselves—I know what I should have done with the second one: It would not have appeared in the list of official engagements; but of course if it had happened to be Friday the 24th September, we could have had two birthdays instead of one.

But there was a lot more besides that in Dr. Graham's letter—it was full of his travels and his conversations with high personages on behalf of the Homes: but most of all it brimmed over with pride at the success of O. G. Bs. in New Zealand and with joy at meeting them again and finding them so happily settled in such a grand country. And here is a bit of his letter especially for you—"I shall be thinking of you all on the 24th at the 27th Anniversary at Kalimpong. Please give the children the loving salaams of the O. G. Bs. in Australia and New Zealand and their promise to do their bit for the upkeep of Mansfield Cottage".

Coming here for the last time I feel tempted to recall my own personal associations with the Homes and Kalimpong. I have the most vivid recollections of my first visit, five years ago; I do not exaggerate when I say that it was a revelation to me of the spirit of happiness and service that animates the life of the Homes; I understood more quickly and more thoroughly than any description

can convey the force of their appeal—an appeal that has opened the purse strings of both rich and poor, and we hope will long continue to do so. For this is more than an Institution; it is a living witness to the power of love and faith. The Homes as an educational centre have been recognised as an asset of irreplaceable value to the poorest among the Anglo-Indian community, and rightly make a special appeal for this reason; but to those who know them their appeal is one that transcends the bounds of community; whoever may be the direct beneficiaries of work such as this, India and humanity must be richer in consequence.

Such I believe must be the impression that any visitor must carry away with him; certainly it was mine. Whether the children were equally impressed with me, I sometimes wonder. All I can say is that the A.-D.-C. who accompanied me, in Highland uniform and hung about with all sorts of exciting accoutrements was a far more obvious source of attraction: he shared the honours not with me but with my venerable and much be-ribboned Jemadar Chaprassi; I can't help thinking that the children must have been somewhat disillusioned to discover that neither of these impressive and fascinating personalities was the Governor—but, be it said to their everlasting credit, they were none the less friendly and charming to my comparatively—unexciting self.

It was just a year later that I went down to open the then brand new Teesta Bridge, and I recall the shadow of anxiety thrown over that day by the news that Dr. Graham was seriously ill; I drove up for a very short visit to see him and found him

calm and happy with a serious operation in prospect: we were all deeply thankful when the shadow passed: on fleeting visits since then I have never failed to find a welcome with Dr. Graham in surroundings at once cultured and simple where unflagging zeal goes hand in hand with true peace of spirit.

And so I have come here to-day—a day looked forward to—not only as the first day of my return to the hills of Darjeeling that I have come to know so well and appreciate so much—but also as a visit to a place where I feel that I should be no less welcome as a friend than as a Governor.

And now, lest I outstay my welcome by prolonging these proceedings, let me make an end. Those of us who have not forgotten our childhood will confess that even the most welcome visitor to a birthday party has not merited his invitation until he has produced his little parcel to add to the gaiety of the occasion; and to-day it gives me the greatest pleasure to be in a position to announce a donation from funds at my disposal as a token of my sympathy and of my best wishes for your thirty-seventh birthday: and this being my last visit I have decided to add a bonus of fifty per cent. to the sum of a thousand rupees that has already been made over to your Treasurer.

I have really finished but there are just two more things I want to say. I referred a little while ago to great things in store the year after next. In February 1939 Dr. Graham will have completed fifty years of service to Kalimpong and India. I have no doubt that many will wish to mark the

occasion of his jubilee in a suitable manner—so far as I know ideas on this subject have not yet taken shape: but when they do so and if an appeal is made for funds for some object that would be of service both to Dr. Graham and to Kalimpong—if an appeal is made I shall be glad to open the subscription list with a personal donation of five hundred rupees.

The other thing is this. Dr. Graham has sent us a cable—and I am sure you would like to send one to him. His was a very long one—I am surprised in fact that a Scotsman should have sent such a long telegram. Shall we try and say all we want to say in a very short one—such as this:—

“Birthday booming. Your absence our only regret. Affectionate greetings from all
—Anderson.”

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of
the foundation stone of the Nurses'
Quarters, Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling,
on 25th October 1937.***

I am glad that the opportunity has been afforded me, in the short time that remains before I leave Darjeeling, of formally inaugurating this project and you, Mr. Larkin, have made the occasion the more welcome by your kind references to myself.

In the new Victoria Hospital the Municipality and District of Darjeeling possess an institution of which you may justly be proud—and the nurses' quarters now in contemplation will be a worthy addition to the buildings which have grown up since the reconstruction of the old hospital and dispensary was first undertaken. It will stand on the site of a building that has had a varied history—first as the Pannalal Ward, erected by the generosity of the late Mr. Pannalal, of Jore Bungalow, and later as the Police Hospital. I am glad to know that the names of those whose benefactions enabled the previous structure to be built will be commemorated by appropriate tablets in the new building.

I join with you in expressing my appreciation of the generosity of Rai Bahadur Lakshmi Narayan Sukhani in contributing so handsome a sum as twenty thousand rupees towards the cost of this project: at the time when he made so generous a donation it was, I am informed, calculated to cover some two-thirds of the cost of erecting a two-storeyed structure; as matters then stood, two

storeys appeared to be all that was necessary : those responsible for the scheme have wisely decided to look further ahead and the cost has in consequence been increased : I have no doubt however that with the finances of Darjeeling Municipality behind it the completion of the project is assured, and when the building is opened and put into use I feel sure that the Rai Bahadur will have every reason to be gratified by the results of a scheme which will have owed so much to his liberality.

The project confers many-sided benefits, not only on the nurses for whom more adequate quarters are being provided, but also on the hospital and the district in that the number of nurses and the facilities for their training will be increased : moreover, the accommodation for dealing with out-patients, as I have myself observed on a previous visit, has hitherto been restricted and hardly worthy of a hospital of this grade : in removing that defect the new project will confer a real boon on the large numbers of people who have to attend in all kinds of weather for treatment of their ills.

I am sorry I shall not be here to see the work completed, but I have seen Mr. Keir's drawings and I have seen the way in which the Victoria Hospital is run : to adapt an old phrase, I have no hesitation in saying that this new project will both be handsome and do handsomely.

It is with much pleasure that I shall now proceed to lay the foundation stone.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Rally and Competitions of Darjeeling Boy Scouts on 26th October 1937.

It is now five years since I first came and watched your annual rally and the very interesting display which you put up here in Darjeeling every year: and during that time I have seen the Darjeeling Boy Scouts Association grow in numbers and prestige until to-day you are some 931 strong. All over the district the name of Scout is well known, as is also the ideal of service for which the scouts stand. It was only last May, when I took a few days off and went into Sikkim for a short holiday that I discovered on the outskirts of the district a pack of Wolf Cubs who very proudly saluted me and proceeded to display their talents and training before me. I do not know if there are any of them here to-day; if so they will have come a long way. But I have little doubt that when the movement is reaching places like Pedong on the confines of the district and is arousing enthusiasm there, it may be said to have a very firm foothold in these hills and to be appreciated here by all types and classes of people.

That a large part of this success has been due to the personal exertions of the late Sardar Bahadur Laden La is a fact which needs no emphasis from me. His passing was a sad blow to Darjeeling and to the many associations and other interests which he served and encouraged by his own enthusiasm. His particular combination of zeal, efficiency and

cheerfulness which he placed at the disposal of Darjeeling in general and of your association in particular is a rare one, and the many places which he leaves vacant may be difficult to fill. I trust your local Association is applying itself seriously to the question and will be able to find someone with the personal qualities and the leisure and energy to fill this gap.

In the Scout Report for 1935-36 the reference to Darjeeling begins with these words—"The hills have echoed and re-echoed with the scout yell throughout the year". In 1937 you have not had so many scout visitors from the plains, but I feel sure that you will not lose any opportunities in future of introducing your brother scouts to the charms of these hills and of giving them a warm welcome.

In bidding you goodbye—not without real regret—I can only express my hope and belief that the work so well started and established will be worthily maintained for the future.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Coronation Bridge at Sevoke on
5th November 1937.***

It is a commonplace among those who serve in India that it takes a long time for schemes to mature: men who have initiated projects with energy and enthusiasm are transferred or go on leave and return perhaps years later to see the schemes they have initiated still as far from fulfilment as when they were conceived: perhaps in the course of protracted discussions a scheme has been improved—perhaps as the file has grown thicker and older the ideas that seemed so new and promising have been drained of their life blood, and the project, mangled beyond recognition, is fit only for the pigeon-hole from which nothing but a stroke of fortune will ever rescue it.

To-day is a happy exception: we are met to inaugurate a project that was conceived less than four years ago and to-day is on the high road to fulfilment.

You have only to look at the narrow track winding along the precipice on the other side of this valley to realise how much remains to be done by the engineers before it gives place to a safe and modern highway.

As we look across this deep valley to the buttress of rock on the far side, we can appreciate at a glance the courage and imagination that have inspired the

project of throwing a bridge of reinforced concrete across this formidable gap high above the implacable torrent of the Teesta below.

Yet it is only by bridging the Teesta here or hereabouts that we can ensure against the risk that sooner or later it will sever the arteries of trade to and from the Western Dooars. The magnitude of the traffic to and from that area can be judged by the fact that some 25,000 tons of tea are exported every year, while for the tea industry alone the railway carries some 500 tons of supplies every day. The food and commodities required for a large labour community and the supplies for numerous tea gardens are paid for from the exported tea and the purchases of this area go to enrich the trade and agriculture of the other parts of the province. All this traffic depends on a line of railway perilously near the almost uncontrollable course of the Teesta where its pent up torrent is let loose on the unresisting alluvium of the plains below. In 1926 when the railway was temporarily breached, foodstuffs became scarce, prices soared high and the labour of the tea gardens showed signs of grave alarm: five years later the railway was again breached: on both these occasions the railway authorities succeeded in restoring communications and recent developments have led them to believe that the prospects for the future are more secure. But it is beyond the capacity of man to control the Teesta in the plains or to forecast its future and the risk of isolation of the Western Dooars is one that is too great to be taken.

It is for this reason that the present project has been one of urgency and I am happy to know

before I leave this province that its execution is well under way: the road from Bagrakote to Sevoke, crossing the Teesta at this point, will provide an alternative outlet and protect the Western Dooars against the disaster of losing communications with the outer world—communications which in the absence of this road might only be restored at prohibitive cost and after ruinous delays.

That however is only one aspect of this scheme. The new road will run along the southern boundary of the extensive forest area of Kalimpong: it will provide for considerable parts of that area an outlet for forest produce and enhance the value of the adjoining forests.

To the district of Darjeeling the new road should be of real importance: the opening up of a new artery of traffic cannot fail to have its effects on the prosperity of Siliguri and the adjoining country: moreover, at present the Western Dooars, though so close to Darjeeling and Kalimpong, are cut off from easy access to them during the most unhealthy season of the year. I have little doubt that the removal of that difficulty will be to the mutual benefit of the Dooars and the hill stations.

Yet this project is of more than purely local importance: it is to be a firm link in a wider system of planned communications: the plan no doubt will take many years to mature but when it does, this section of road and the bridge here over the Teesta will fit in to the general scheme and form part of a system of Trunk Roads designed to link Calcutta with Assam on the north-east and the other provinces of India on the south and west. That

is looking a long way ahead, but I have this year already laid the foundation stone of a bridge over the Damodar in Burdwan and another is due to be laid shortly for a bridge over the Cossye in Midnapore. These are not isolated projects and we look forward to the day when they will be linked up as part of a completed whole.

For the present those who have this bridge in hand have enough to tax their skill and energies. Men who aspire to compete with nature in these hills know well the risks and dangers that they have to face: in all humility, and believing that their task will be well and truly accomplished we commit this great work to their hands.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Farewell
Addresses presented at Darjeeling on
8th November 1937.***

I thank you for your cordial good wishes and the appreciative references you have been kind enough to make to me personally on this occasion which marks the close of my last stay in Darjeeling.

It is more than five and a half years since I first arrived in Darjeeling. It was on a fine April morning and I still retain the most vivid recollection of my first sight of these hills and of the welcome that you gave me in this same Market Square. I am happy to feel that in the years since then we have come to know each other better, and, if I may say so, our mutual understanding and friendship has deepened with the passing of time. I have looked forward with keen anticipation to each successive visit as the time came round and I have been fortunate in being able to spend in Darjeeling a substantial portion of the seven months for which my term of office has been prolonged beyond its normal span. My visits this year have been belated but for that very reason I have looked forward to them all the more. This last visit coming as it did after a strenuous period in the plains was particularly welcome not only to me but also, if I mistake not, to many members of my Government.

As one who may claim to be a well established resident of Darjeeling, I realise how vital it is to those whose livelihood is bound up with the

prosperity of the town and the district that the seasonal moves of the headquarters of Government should continue. That, as you know, is no longer a matter within the personal control of the Governor; but I have never disguised my own view that the time spent in Darjeeling is of real value from a public point of view both to Ministers and to their permanent advisers: they may find here a breathing space between strenuous periods in the plains in which to mature and co-ordinate their plans and to apply themselves with deliberation to the complicated questions of policy and administration that must inevitably confront a Government. I can only hope for your sake that those advantages, which I believe are real, may continue to commend themselves to those on whom responsibility for the future will rest.

You, Gentlemen of the Municipality, have certainly done your part during my term of office in endeavouring to improve the amenities of this town and to maintain its reputation as an up-to-date and well-administered hill station. I am moreover gratified to know that not content with improving those amenities which lie on the surface and catch the eye of the visitor, you have also borne constantly in mind the welfare of the town as a whole. I have watched with interest and sympathy your work for these five years and know that you have carried out comprehensive programmes of improvement in public health, sanitation, housing, child welfare and primary education calculated steadily to raise the standard of health and well-being among the cheerful and hardy people who form the bulk of your permanent

population. That you have carried through such a programme in spite of the disastrous earthquake of 1934 is in itself a source of pride. That in addition you have been able during this same period substantially to reduce the burden of municipal taxation enhances the value of your achievements; I have no doubt that the relief thus afforded to your ratepayers has proved to be one of the most popular features of your recent administration. I trust that the progressive spirit that you have shown will continue to inspire your work, for as custodians of a hill station you cannot afford to fall behind the times.

I have had opportunities at various times to go further afield among the hills and valleys of the district and have come to learn something of the problems that confront your District Board and those whose responsibilities extend beyond the town of Darjeeling. Your reference, Gentlemen of the District Board, to your 21 miles of metalled road conveys, if I may say so, an inadequate impression to the outside world of the extent to which communications have actually been developed in the hills. To my mind the manner in which so much of the district has been opened up to the small car in recent years is a very striking example of what can be done by the co-operation of private enterprise with public activity. It is natural, in a district where the main arteries of communication are of necessity maintained by Government, that the great bulk of grants from the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund should have been expended on improvements, such as surfacing and bridging to the Government roads; but there remains a balance

which I have no doubt will be allotted to you and will be of substantial value to your planned programme of improvement.

Moreover, I believe that your district will derive substantial benefit from the new road from Sevoke to Bagrakote and the great new bridge over the Teesta of which I laid the foundation stone a few days ago. Apart from the commercial advantages of that new highway to the Duars I cannot help feeling that when the Duars are connected with Darjeeling by a through motor road, the temptation of residents of the Duars to escape to the cool of the hills will often prove too strong for them and the town and the district will benefit accordingly.

In the course of my travels both in Darjeeling and in the adjoining territories of Sikkim and Bhutan I have come to appreciate more and more the widely varied charms of this part of the Himalayas and the qualities of the people who inhabit them. I have also learnt, what may escape the casual visitor to a hill station, that below these bracing and healthy altitudes lie hot tropical valleys shut in by the surrounding hills—valleys which if uncared for may become veritable plague spots of disease and threaten the health of the adjoining localities. I have been deeply concerned to hear of the ravages of Kala-Azar in some of these valleys and of the manner in which that disease has been spreading in the low lying areas of this part of the Himalayas. The matter has received the earnest attention of the Minister for Public Health and I understand that with the co-operation of the District Board the application

of systematic remedial measures against Kala-Azar is about to begin. It is also the Minister's desire—a desire in which I fully share—that the long discussed scheme of public health organisation for this district should be brought to early maturity and put into operation without avoidable delay.

The constitutional change in the position of Darjeeling is a matter that has naturally received attention in more than one of your addresses. When I first came to Darjeeling the question of its future was still open: I said then that I could understand and sympathise with the point of view of those who desired the district to be brought fully into the scheme of things proposed for the rest of the province: equally, I said, I could respect the honest opinion of others that there was a strong case for at least maintaining safeguards in the interests of the hill people. I believe it may be found that both those points of view have been fairly met by the constitutional arrangements that have now been introduced. Darjeeling is represented in the Legislature and gains the substantial advantage of having throughout every phase of Government activity Ministers directly responsible for the interests of Darjeeling just as much as they are responsible for the interests of other districts of the province. Administratively such an arrangement should tend to the more expeditious handling by the Provincial Government of matters relating to Darjeeling; and the direct interest which the Minister for Public Health has displayed in your public health and Kala-Azar measures is, I trust, an earnest for the future. For, as I have indicated elsewhere, the existence

of a special charge upon the Governor for the peace and good Government of Darjeeling in no way relieves Ministers of their obligations or responsibilities in that respect; on the other hand the special relationship of the Governor to this frontier district may serve to reassure both the hillmen and the minorities in these hills that questions affecting their particular interests will be viewed apart from the heat and turmoil of political controversy. If such, as I hope, should in fact be the outcome of these changes, it is not too much to expect that Darjeeling may continue its development on the one hand as an integral part of the province of Bengal and on the other hand as a hill district having its own distinctive features: I trust it will long be blessed by a consciousness among its inhabitants that their common interests in the district transcend those sectional and communal interests that loom so large in present-day politics of the plains. In saying this I do not mean for a moment to disparage the value of Associations such as yours, Gentlemen of the Anjuman, or yours, Gentlemen of the Hillmen's Association. Associations founded on common culture and traditions have their place in every free country, and wisely directed can do much to promote mutual respect between those whose interests they represent.

You, Gentlemen of the Anjuman, are a small community in Darjeeling and I rejoice to know that the personal differences that at one time threatened the concord of your social, cultural and religious organisation have been happily composed. I am gratified to know that Ministers and officers of my Government were able to help in bringing

about this happy state of affairs. I wish you a prosperous future, of useful service to your brethren who reside in or come to Darjeeling and of friendship with the varied communities which go to make up the rich pattern of life in this district.

I would like to thank you, Gentlemen of the Hillmen's Association, for your assurances of steadfast loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor and for your kind references to myself. Both here in Darjeeling, and on my travels in the district or in the adjoining territories of Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet I have ever received from the people of these hills, both high and low, the greatest consideration and the warmest friendship and hospitality.

I take this opportunity of conveying through you to the hill people of the district my appreciation of all the courtesy and kindness that they have shown me. I would ask you to assure them that their sterling qualities have won a high place in my regard and will long remain a cherished memory.

It remains for me only to say goodbye and to wish you all a happy and prosperous future.

***His Excellency's Addresses to the
Recipients of the Indian Police Medal
at the Calcutta Police Parade on 10th
November 1937.***

INSPECTOR JOHN MARSDEN,

You were appointed to the Calcutta Police 34 years ago and throughout your service, which has been efficiently performed, you have from time to time had to deal with violence and disorder. In 1906 you rendered valuable service in connection with the Nimtollah Ghat Fire and a year later took part in a raid on armed revolutionaries which preceded the Maniktolla Bomb Case. You have had to face many difficult problems caused by riots in Calcutta and have met with much success in dealing with difficult situations which confronted you. You have on several occasions officiated as Assistant Commissioner in the Motor Vehicles Branch and I now congratulate you on the award of the Indian Police Medal which His Excellency the Viceroy has made to you for your long and meritorious service.

INSPECTOR SHAMAPADA CHATTERJEE,

You have served in the Police force since 1913 and have been on several occasions specially selected for important work. In 1926 you were transferred to the Intelligence Branch and placed in charge of the Protective Staff under the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Branch. During the years 1930 to 1935 this work was of paramount importance

and required constant and active supervision in addition to great organising ability. The award to you of the Indian Police Medal by His Excellency the Viceroy is a fitting recognition of the efficient manner in which you have performed your duties. I congratulate you.

OFFG. INSPECTOR SARASHI KUMAR BRAHMACHARY,

You held charge of the Muchipara Police Station during the five difficult years which followed 1929. During your tenure of this position you were constantly called upon to deal with unruly mobs and on more than one occasion sustained injuries in the course of your duties. Your investigating work and tactful handling of difficult problems have marked you as an officer of resource and initiative. I now congratulate you on being awarded the Indian Police Medal by His Excellency the Viceroy.

INSPECTOR OSCAR D'LASTIC,

*You have for the last seven years been in charge of various departments of the Traffic Police and your work has been effective in improving the standard of Traffic control in Calcutta. Your unflagging devotion to duty during 17 years for which you have served in the Police force has earned for you the award of the Indian Police Medal. I congratulate you.

INSPECTOR RABINDRA NATH GUPTA,

You joined the Calcutta Police in 1920 and while in charge of the Bowbazar Police Station were successful in stamping out the gambling and cocaine smuggling for which China Town was formerly

notorious. On four occasions you have figured in the arrest of armed smugglers carrying revolvers and automatic pistols and in each case your investigation has resulted in the conviction of the accused. Your marked ability and devotion to duty have now earned for you the award of the Indian Police Medal by His Excellency the Viceroy. I congratulate you.

SERGEANT BASIL MURTOUGH,

You were standing in Chowringhee Road on duty when you were informed that a man had been stabbed in Lindsay Street. You at once proceeded to the spot and after ascertaining the direction in which the assailant had escaped followed him and discovered him with his back to the wall brandishing a knife in each hand and threatening those who were near him. Undeterred by his menacing attitude you broke through the crowd, disarmed him and placed him under arrest. This man after stabbing a person to death in Lindsay Street had assailed three others with knives and had caused them severe injuries.

In recognition of the courage displayed by you on that occasion the Indian Police Medal for gallantry has been awarded to you. I congratulate you most heartily.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta
Police Parade on 10th November 1937.***

**MR. COLSON, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE CALCUTTA
POLICE FORCE AND THE FIRE BRIGADE,**

It is with mixed feelings of pride and regret that I meet you this morning for the last time on parade. I have watched this annual ceremony grow in size and impressiveness during the last five years, and it has always given me pleasure to observe the smartness, discipline and precision of this representative contingent. I appreciate these features the more because I know that a well-organised, well-disciplined and reliable police force is an essential part of the equipment of any form of organised Government.

In a great city such as Calcutta, with its wide open spaces, its docks, its great arteries of traffic, its crowded bazars and its tortuous by-ways I suppose that almost every form of police problem must present itself: that the degree of safety for life and property enjoyed in Calcutta is comparable with that obtaining in the best regulated among the great cities of the western world is in itself an eloquent tribute to the work that you perform. I congratulate you, Mr. Colson, your officers and all ranks of the force on the work you have done and on a good record of health and internal discipline during the past year. I congratulate too those whose services have been recognised to-day by decorations and awards.

The political ferment of the last few months has at times placed a severe strain upon your energies and it is a matter for gratification on the part both of the police and the public that occasions of disorder have been few. There are still in the political life of India elements that believe that the millenium can be brought about by undermining the forces of ordered society as a preliminary to a frontal attack: on the other hand I acknowledge with appreciation the efforts of those who, though politically opposed to the Government in power, have used their influence in recent months to discourage in both industrial and political spheres demonstrations pregnant with danger of grave disorder.

You have been assured, both by the attitude of the responsible Minister and by the verdict of the legislature, of full support in the legitimate carrying out of your lawful responsibilities, and I speak with the full concurrence of my Ministers in repeating that assurance to-day. They, however, and I on their behalf, are entitled to ask in return that all ranks of the force should bear in mind the ever present obligation so to conduct themselves that the Minister, who has to take responsibility for their actions and defend them before the legislature, shall not have his task made avoidably difficult by the conduct of any member of the force.

May I try to make clear the position as I understand it? In this province, as in England, duties and responsibilities have been imposed on the police by law: so long as the law stands, the officers and men upon whom those responsibilities are laid, are in duty bound to discharge them.

whether the task be pleasant or not. But the responsible Minister, and through him the legislature, are entitled to know not only that the police are discharging their duties but that they are discharging them with the greatest regard in the circumstances for the rights of the individual. It may be that a path has got to be kept open, or a street kept clear: well, if it has, orders are orders and it is no use arguing with the man on the spot. On the other hand, if a duty can be performed with good nature and courtesy, everyone concerned is very much happier than if a hectoring attitude is adopted: and if force has to be used in the end, the man who has tried good nature first is doubly armed.

At the same time I do once again appeal to the public to do their share. It is perfectly true that the police like all other functionaries in the service of the State are public servants: but they are not on that account to be regarded as personally subservient to any private individual, whether he be the man in the street or a personage of importance. I would ask the public also to remember another thing. The subordinate police officer performs his duties in the full glare of publicity: they are duties that cover a wide range and in their discharge are liable to react on the interests or at least the convenience of persons of every class of society: yet he is perhaps the only subordinate public servant of any class who at a time of emergency is habitually called upon to act at once and in his own discretion without any opportunity of referring to higher authority for directions. Not even the soldier, who spends the major portion of his life

under training, is called upon to take even in emergency a personal decision that may affect the rights or impinge upon the feelings of a fellow subject of the Crown. I am at one with the most advanced individualist in saying that every subject of His Majesty is entitled to expect courtesy from His Majesty's servants; but courtesy proceeds from a recognition on both sides that the other man has the dignity of a man and is entitled to respect whether in doing his duty or proceeding on his lawful occasions. There are two sides to this question but I may sum it up this way. Courtesy and consideration are demanded from both sides: let the police force as a trained and disciplined body set an example.

When all is said I can think of no better motto for a police force than the one which is inscribed on the highest award which His Majesty has reserved for distinguished service in the Police Forces of his Empire: the King's Police Medal bears the inscription "To guard my people". With these words, and believing that under the leadership of its officers the police force of Calcutta will truly serve the city and protect its people through changing times, I bid you farewell and the best of good fortune.

Farewell Address presented to His Excellency by the Bengal, Bengal National, Indian and Muslim Chambers of Commerce on 13th November 1937.

As you will shortly be relinquishing the high office of Governor of the Province of Bengal which you have held during the past 5½ years with such distinction we, the Presidents of the four Chambers of Commerce who subscribe to this parting address, realise with genuine regret the loss which your departure from our midst means to this Province, and desire respectfully to offer to you, on behalf of the commercial interests which we represent, our tribute of sincere thanks for your tactful, able and successful administration of the affairs of this Province while it has had the good fortune to be in your charge.

Coming to us as you did at a time when the financial and economic problems of Bengal seemed almost incapable of solution, your unremitting endeavours to achieve financial equilibrium, which have been attended with such marked success, have more than earned our deepest gratitude, while your sympathetic interest in the amelioration of the economic conditions of the masses will long be remembered.

Bearing in mind the whole-heartedness with which you have dealt with the many and difficult problems which have come before you, and also remembering your solicitude for justice to be done in all quarters, it is with some diffidence that we

now single out for special mention, a few of the particular directions in which your labours have been invaluable.

In the realm of finance it is largely due to your vigorous and successful championing of the right of Bengal to have a large share, if not all, of the jute tax, that this Province has received more adequate financial justice from the Central Government and is now in a position to balance its budget with a little over for expenditure in directions which would have been otherwise impossible without additional taxation.

Your great zeal for the welfare of the agricultural masses is reflected in the institution of the Board of Economic Enquiry to investigate economic problems and recommend constructive measures for their solution, and in the introduction of a voluntary jute restriction scheme with a view to providing better prices to the growers; while during your regime we have seen the passing of the Agricultural Debtors Act for the relief of agricultural indebtedness; the establishment of experimental land mortgage banks in five districts; the enactment of a measure for the eradication of the water hyacinth pest; and the passing of the Bengal Waterways Act to deal with the problem of inland waterways.

Nor have the requirements of industry escaped your attention as witness the establishment of the Industrial Credit Corporation for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the latent minor industries of the Province; the initiation of the scheme for the training of detenus in a number of industrial avenues which have possibilities of

development and providing scope for middle class unemployment ; and your personal mediation of the jute mills dispute with a view to the adoption of concerted measures of restriction to avert a crisis.

The facility and ease with which the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy in Bengal has taken place is largely due to your breadth of outlook and political sagacity ; while we also realise that, in the short space of time at your disposal, you have done much towards effecting a harmonious adjustment of the prestige and dignity of your high office with democratic principles embodied in the new constitution.

Lastly but no less gratefully do we acknowledge your wise guidance which has produced the comparative calm now prevailing in this Province in the sphere of law and order.

May we in repeating our grateful thanks for these manifold services be permitted to wish you a pleasant journey back to your native land and spell of long life with good health in which to undertake such further tasks as may fall to your lot to perform.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
presented by the Bengal, Bengal
National, Indian and Muslim Chambers
of Commerce at an Afternoon Party
given by them on 13th November 1937.***

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE,

I would like to thank you very much for your courtesy and kindness in thus presenting me with an address. I can quite honestly say that it was a surprise when a few days ago I learnt of your intention. I had not in fact expected to receive an address of this nature in Calcutta and I believe that you will not expect from me a lengthy or formal reply. In that respect too I must thank you for your consideration, for I am trying to remain in harness to the end and it would have been difficult for me to find time in which to devise any adequate reply to the very kind things you have said. May I say, however, how much I value this concerted expression of your appreciation and good wishes. Organised bodies representing commerce and industry such as yours have a big part to play under the new regime: Governments may fairly look to you to provide them with expert and technical advice of a kind which frequently they cannot obtain in any other manner and I am sure that in tendering such advice you will be able to make

a solid contribution to developments in the commercial and industrial field which are of such great importance to the economic well-being and progress of the province. I think your coming together for this purpose is a happy augury for the future and I need hardly assure you that from such a source the appreciation you have been good enough to express has a very special value for me. I shall long treasure the memory of what you have said to-day.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
presented by the members of the
District Board, Midnapore, on 16th
November 1937.***

GENTLEMEN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD,

I deeply appreciate your courtesy in presenting me with an address of this nature at a time of farewell. The addresses presented to me on tour by public bodies have in the ordinary way—and quite rightly—served the purpose of bringing to notice the administrative needs of the locality and putting forward the views of the local authorities as to the manner in which those needs should be met. It is no longer within my power in the few days that remain of my Governorship in Bengal to enter in detail into fresh administrative problems of local importance—and I thank you for the manner in which you have chosen, in these circumstances, to couch your address in more personal terms.

The Burge Bridge of which I have come to lay the foundation stone to-day is a happy example of co-ordination of effort and enterprise between a district authority, and the provincial Government—an example that I trust may be a good augury for the future.

It is a sad reflection that the man whose name this bridge will commemorate has been lost to the service of this province and I cannot but recall that on a previous occasion on which I visited Midnapore I unveiled a memorial to James Peddie—another true servant of Government and the people whose life was cut short in those unhappy years. I recall

their names, as they themselves would have wished, without bitterness. It is my earnest hope that while the memory of such men may long remain fresh, the insensate passions that resulted in their untimely ends may be relegated, not only by the passage of time but also by the hearts and minds of men, to a past ever more and more remote.

It is, I believe, true that the atmosphere of this district and indeed of the whole province has improved out of recognition since I was last in Midnapore. That Bengal is thus re-established in the eyes of India is a source of pride and gratification to all of us. It is also the duty of us all to re-establish the names of Midnapore as a district within the province; but I have no doubt that if the sentiments which you have expressed are a true reflection of the feelings of the district in these latter days, the signs are set fair for the recovery which has for so long been ardently desired.

You have referred gentlemen to the recent relaxation of restrictions which it has been possible to make. The fact that this has become possible is a cause of satisfaction to us all. I share to the full the hope that the improvement which has taken place in the general atmosphere of the district during the past year will be maintained, and that it may prove possible at an early date for the district to return to normal conditions. You have referred with appreciation to efforts that have been and are being made in the direction of general betterment and rural development: such efforts, I am sure, will make a large contribution to the process of appeasement and to the awakening of new hopes and a happier outlook on life.

In fostering such an outlook few measures, I believe, will be of greater importance than those that tend directly to promote the health and manly interest in life of the rising generation. It is no longer in my hands to shape the general policy of Government: but the initiation of measures to improve the physique and brighten the lives of the school-going generation was an object very dear to my heart and one that I would have been happy to see accomplished before I left Bengal. I cannot refrain on this occasion from expressing the hope that some part of the augmented resources of this province may find its way to so worthy an end.

Your references to the part which I have taken personally in the administration of the province during the last five years are couched in very generous terms. I am happy to think that, during the five and a half years of my Governorship, a good deal has been done for the regeneration of Bengal. It is my belief that now that the destinies of the country are so largely in the hands of persons directly responsible to its people, the determination to forge ahead in constructive activity will not be allowed to flag. If I on my part have, as you have so kindly indicated in your address, contributed something towards the improvement of conditions in the province, let me at once acknowledge that any efforts of mine would have been unavailing without the constant expert help and advice which I have received from those with whom I have faced a common problem. Let me also say this. There is only one thing that could ever make me regret the strenuous, often harassing but always intensely interesting, years that I have spent in Bengal—and

that would be a recrudescence of the plague of terrorism and disorder which has now thrice fallen upon the province, and a revival of the bitterness and waste of those unhappy days. To put the clock back again now after so much strife and after so much effort at appeasement would be a disaster of the first magnitude to the province and to me a bitter personal disappointment. The words which you have to-day addressed to me give me confidence that your district and Bengal have now before them the prospect of more happiness and prosperity than they have known for many years.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Laying of
the Foundation Stone of the Burge
Bridge at Midnapore, on 16th November
1937.***

I have come to lay this foundation stone to-day in fulfilment of two obligations. One is my obligation to do what I can so long as I remain in office to further the constructive plans of my Government. The other obligation is of a more personal nature: it arises from a promise I had made to the widow of the late Mr. Burge who lost his life in the service of the people of this district. I had promised her that, if I could, I would myself lay the foundation stone of this bridge which owes its origin to his initiative and which will fitly perpetuate his name.

It is part of the tragedy of this district during those troubled years that Burge, like his predecessors, was compelled to devote to the primary task of the maintenance of order energies that under happier conditions he would gladly have spent upon more pleasant and more obviously constructive activities. Yet in spite of the burden that rested upon him he made the time for enterprises such as this; he had set his heart on bridging the Cossye and his last act before he was assassinated was to write a letter arranging for an appointment in connection with this very bridge.

The project as he conceived it was one primarily for local benefit, to be executed and partially paid for from the funds of the District Board of which

he was then Chairman. As the plan developed, however, Government itself was maturing its own plans to provide funds for capital works of this nature: in April 1934, some eighteen months after the proposal had first been raised, Government decided that they would contribute from the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund up to four lakhs of rupees for the purpose of this bridge. They also went further and expressed their willingness to consider financing the project from the Petrol Tax Fund should it be found that the expense was too heavy for a local body to bear. In fact the cost of this work, as you have heard from the Hon'ble Minister is expected to exceed eight lakhs and will be met entirely by Government. That decision was based on a recognition that this bridge over the Cossye is of much more than local importance: as the Hon'ble Minister has explained to you, the bridge will form a vital link in the planned trunk road system of Bengal: moreover, if some day a trunk road to Orissa and Madras materialises, this bridge will carry that highway over one of the major obstacles that lie on the route.

This bridge over the Cossye as I have already emphasised on another occasion, is one of a series: to provide the finance for works of this magnitude without depleting the resources available for other road work in the province has presented a problem of some difficulty. That problem has been solved by the co-operation of the Government of India and the Central Legislature; they have agreed to selected projects being financed from loans which will be backed indirectly by the Petrol Tax so long as the present arrangements regarding the Road

Fund continue. I gratefully acknowledge the help and co-operation that we have received in this matter from those responsible in the Government of India.

In laying this foundation stone to-day I am inaugurating a work which I believe will be of lasting benefit to this district and to Bengal. May this bridge long stand as a monument to that spirit of courage and imagination that does not despair in face of obstacles but accepts their challenge cheerfully and sets itself to overcome them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now proceed to lay the foundation stone of the Burge Bridge. Before we do so I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister for all the kind things he has said about me.

His Excellency's remarks on the occasion of his visit to the Sir John Anderson Health School at 38-1, Elgin Road on 17th November 1937.

SIR UPENDRANATH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is indeed a pleasure to me to come here to-day to see for myself the Training School for Health Welfare workers with which you have been good enough to associate my name. It is less than two years since I first emphasised in my annual address to the Calcutta and Bengal Health Welfare Week Committees, the need of the reopening of the school and I think the Red Cross Society may congratulate itself on the promptitude with which the reopening has come about.

It is a source of gratification to me that two of the suggestions which I made at that meeting have already been accepted and put into practice. One is the reopening of the School and the other is the setting up of the Health Welfare Committee to co-ordinate the work that is being done throughout the province. It is my belief that you have in these two instruments the means of making a momentous advance in the improvement of health and general conditions of life all over Bengal. And though I shall not be here to see the results which I hope you will be able to achieve, I shall retain my interest in your work and I shall look forward to hearing of your further progress.

Of the potentialities of this school I have no doubt. There is a great and ever growing need for health workers of good social standing imbued

with a belief in their mission and fully trained for their task: I hope that, as the value and the dignity of this work is recognised, young women of education and ability in Bengal will be more and more attracted to the career of service that work of this kind can offer them. The field of such service in this province is vast and still unexplored: if those who are responsible for this and its connected enterprises in Health Welfare can pursue their aims systematically and with public support they will bring about improvements of profound importance in the life of the people. It has I realise taken an immense amount of work on the part of many willing helpers to bring about so soon the progress already achieved. It has meant also a big burden of work on the staff of the Red Cross Society and I recognise the cheerful and efficient manner in which the extra duties imposed on them have been carried out.

It was, I know, a disappointment to them that, owing to difficulties of a technical character, the foundations of the permanent home of this School could not be laid before my departure—but I am told that these difficulties are being overcome and that plans for a permanent headquarters are in hand.

It was the generosity of Mr. Lakshman Prasad Poddar that first brought this project within our reach: to His Exalted Highness the Nizam, to Mr. Birla, Mr. Dalmia and the other donors I cordially endorse the thanks that you, Sir Upendra-nath, have expressed. My Government have shown their approval by a recurring grant and I feel that

the project is now safely launched. The matter of recognition of your diplomas by Government is one that involves legal and technical questions but I have no doubt that those questions will be carefully and sympathetically gone into.

There is another very welcome development which was not foreseen in the early days and that is the co-operation of the province of Assam in the scheme. For this we have to thank Lady Reid who carried into Assam the same enthusiasm and ability that were of such value to work of this kind in Bengal.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this morning's visit was not intended to be of a formal nature and I wish to see for myself the school on which so much care and energy have been spent. Before I do so I should like to thank Sir Upendranath for the very kind things he said about me in the course of his remarks and once again to express my pleasure at the association of my name with this institution.

His Excellency's Addresses to the Gentlemen Invested at the Daloutta Durbar on 17th November 1937.

C.S.I.

MR. HENRY JOSEPH TWYNAM, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

You became a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1934 after 24 years of distinguished service in various capacities. This included a period of 10 months in 1932 when as an Additional Secretary in the Political Department and later as officiating Chief Secretary you handled a dangerous situation with conspicuous success. Since then as the senior Commissioner you have been in charge of the Presidency Division. You were also for a short time specially posted as Commissioner of Chittagong. You have in collaboration with senior police officers produced two special reports of great value on the organisation of the Armed Branch and the Intelligence Branch of the Police, respectively. On several occasions you have officiated as Chief Secretary and your work throughout your service has been marked by ability, strength of character and balanced judgment.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE KHAN BAHADUR MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., M.L.A., SPEAKER, BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

From 1926 to 1934 you were Public Prosecutor in the district of Nadia where you have also occupied many other positions of public importance and have acquired an intimate knowledge of the district and its people. Entering the Legislative Council in 1926 you served on the Public Accounts Committee, many Select Committees, and also five important Public Enquiry Committees including the Indian Franchise Committee. In 1934 you became the Minister for Education of the Government of Bengal and in this capacity dealt with important modifications in educational Regulations and carried through the long-pending establishment of the Rajshahi Agricultural Institute and the establishment of a Board of Wakfs. You have also made important contributions to the cause of improved rural primary education.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

MR. JOHN MELLOR BOTTOMLEY, C.I.E., I.E.S.,

You entered the Indian Educational Service in 1911 and have served with distinction in its inspecting and teaching branches. You first officiated as Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in 1931 and

were confirmed in that appointment two years later. Your services in connection with the scheme for the betterment of Primary Education have been of very great assistance and you have worked extremely hard to improve the system of school education. In all your work you have combined judgment and tact with enthusiasm and these qualities have rendered you deservedly successful and popular amongst those with whom you have worked.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

Raja.

RAJA PRATIVA NATH RAY,

A member of a well-known and much respected family you have worthily preserved its traditions and have taken a keen and active interest in local affairs in the district of Rajshahi. For some years you have been an Honorary Magistrate invested with first class powers and since 1933 have been an energetic and public-spirited Chairman of the District Board. As a Zemindar you take a deep interest in the welfare of your tenants, residing amongst them for practically the whole of the year; you have deservedly won the respect and esteem of all classes.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy I now present you with the Sanad investing you with the title of Raja.

O.B.E.

MR. CHARLES WILLAM HENRY ANSELL, O.B.E.,

You joined the Bengal Pilot Service as long ago as 1903 and have been Deputy Port Officer, Pilotage, since 1934. This position is the highest appointment open to the service of which you are now the senior Member. Your tenure of this post, which is a very arduous and responsible one, has been marked with success.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. THOMAS EDMONDSON, O.B.E.,

You were appointed to Government Service in 1926 as an Assistant Consulting Architect and from time to time officiated as Consulting Architect. As a result of the Earthquake of 1934 it fell to you to undertake sole responsibility for the design and all architectural work in connection with the new Government House at Darjeeling. You performed this heavy and elaborate task of design and architectural supervision without the help of any assistant and in addition to your normal duties. In 1936 after the completion of Government House you were appointed Government Architect. You have throughout displayed marked ability and devotion to duty.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. REGINALD BOUSFIELD LAGDEN, O.B.E.,

For a number of years you have played a prominent part in many activities of Calcutta life and during the last 16 years have rendered invaluable service to sport in Bengal. Your belief in the value of the game of Cricket as a means of fostering and preserving racial amity has been shown in the part which you have taken in the two visits of the Marylebone Cricket Club teams to India, and also by your connection with the Board of Control in Bengal and Assam, and Presidentship of the Calcutta Cricket Club. Your work in another sphere as Chairman of the Ronaldshay Hut of the Young Men's Christian Association has also been of great value. Yourself a member of the fighting services during the Great War you have done your best to preserve the spirit of comradeship among those who shared its hardships.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

M.B.E.

MR. PERCY JOHN COCHRANE, M.B.E.,

After your retirement as Harbour Master in Calcutta you settled in Kurseong and have devoted yourself to public activities. You have been an Honorary Magistrate for many years and having now received first class powers, have been able to give much relief to the Stipendiary Magistrate in

the disposal of cases. In the capacity of Vice-Chairman of the Kurseong Municipality from 1930-34 you displayed great energy and keenness.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

RAI HIRALAL DATTA BAHADUR, M.B.E.,

You have a long record of service stretching back to the time of the Lieutenant Governors of Bengal under whom you were Head Assistant in the Private Secretary's Office. From 1912 until your retirement early this year you held the position of Superintendent of the Military Secretary's Office. You have ably served a long line of Military Secretaries and have always earned the confidence and respect of those with whom you have been associated in the discharge of your duties.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEE, M.B.E.,

You were the Vice-Chairman of the Hooghly District Board for many years and have now been Chairman for the last six years. You have been active in co-operation with the officers of Government for the betterment of conditions in the district. In particular, your work in the organisation of famine relief in 1936 was outstanding and you spared no effort to provide and supervise the necessary measures for relief.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. MANMATHA BHUSAN DATTA, M.B.E.,

You have been in Government Service for over 30 years and throughout this time have displayed loyal and exemplary devotion to duty. You have also shown yourself to be a reliable, conscientious and hardworking officer and have latterly served as Subdivisional Officer in the Irrigation Department.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. BIRENDRA NATH GHOSH, M.B.E.,

You are a Medical Practitioner of about 30 years standing and have two standard books to your credit. You have been teaching Pharmacology for some years and are a member of the Governing Body of the State Medical Faculty of Bengal and of the Bengal Sanitary Board. You have served as Inspector of Medicine for the Medical Council of India and for over 20 years have examined for the University of Calcutta of which you are a Fellow. You were also for some time a member of the Bengal Council of Medical Registration where your influence was felt in the preservation of the standards of medical education.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. ARTHUR EDWARD RITCHIN, M.B.E.,

You were appointed as a Guard on the East Indian Railway in 1913 and twelve years later your good work and ability earned you promotion to the post of Station Superintendent. During the Railway strike in Asansol in 1928 your organising powers and prompt control of the situation were of much value. You are now Station Superintendent at Howrah where you have been posted for several years: your duties are performed in a manner, that earns for you the respect of the many types of persons who pass through the terminus.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. HARRY WALLACE, M.B.E.,

You were an Honorary Magistrate from 1921 to 1933: and an elected Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation from April 1933 until the separation of the Garden Reach Municipality. Since April 1935 you have been Chairman of this new Body, a difficult position which you have been able to fill with success and credit. You have also inaugurated several useful schemes for the social welfare of the rate-payers and have completely reorganised the Municipality.

You were President of the Garden Reach Silver Jubilee Committee and Vice-Chairman last year of the Committee formed to relieve distress caused by drought and scarcity in the 24-Parganas. You have also rendered practical service locally to education and labour welfare.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Gold.

MR. BRAJA KANTA GUHA, I.C.S.,

You joined the Indian Civil Service in 1924 and have now been District and Sessions Judge of Birbhum for some three years. During the recent period of scarcity you became Chairman of the Committee which organised charitable relief throughout the district. You enlisted honorary workers to raise funds and did not spare yourself in your efforts to ensure that every possible assistance should be given to those in distress. Your devotion to this work, which was outside the sphere of your official duties and was performed at risk to your health, has won general admiration.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Gold for public service in India.

Khan Bahadur.

KHAN BAHADUR MOHAMMED ALI,

A member of a leading zemindar family of the district of Bogra you have entered fully into public affairs in that district. The list of public offices which you have occupied includes that of the Vice-Chairmanship of the Bogra Municipality, Membership of the District Board, the Vice-Chairmanship of two Co-operative Banks and membership of the Silk Committee. You are also an Honorary Magistrate. Besides being interested in local administration you have also taken a leading part in rural uplift work and also in organisations set up for the welfare of the youth in Bogra.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Bahadur. I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction. I congratulate you.

Rai Bahadur.

RAI NITYANANDA SINGH ROY BAHADUR,

For nearly five years you have done exceptionally useful work as an Honorary Presidency Magistrate. In the absence of a stipendiary Magistrate your work in the Traffic Court has been particularly commendable and you have devoted a great deal of time and trouble to ordinary case work. You have proved a most helpful colleague to the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

In recognition of your meritorious service you have been awarded the title of Rai Bahadur. I congratulate you.

**RAI PANDIT KAILASH CHANDRA JYOTISHARNAVA
BAHADUR,**

You are well known for your erudition and culture in Sanskrit literature and in the Shastras. You are also the author of several books on Hindu Astrology and Astronomy and fill the position of Astrologer to the Government of Bengal and Assam and also of the High Court of Fort William in Bengal. You became a Rai Sahib in 1932 and His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Rai Bahadur upon which I congratulate you.

Khan Bahadur.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUHAMMAD SHAMSUZZOHA,

You are well known in the district of Nadia where you fill the position of Public Prosecutor and have also been the Vice-Chairman of the District Board. You are much respected amongst your own community in that district by whom you are looked upon as a trusted leader. You have always taken considerable interest in matters of public welfare in the district.

In recognition of this you have been awarded the title of Khan Bahadur, the Sanad of which I now hand you with my warmest congratulations.

Rai Bahadur.

RAI WOOPENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE BAHADUR,

You have a long and honourable record in the Judicial Service and served for a period as a District and Sessions Judge.

You have well deserved the title of Rai Bahadur now conferred upon you by His Excellency the Viceroy and I congratulate you upon this award.

RAI NABENDRA NATH SEN GUPTA BAHADUR,

After thirteen years able service as a Munsiff you became in 1932 Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Judicial Department where your expeditious methods have been appreciated and your work in bringing about certain reforms within the Department has been of special merit. In recognition of your services which have been uniformly good throughout, His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and in handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

RAI REBATI MOHAN DAS BAHADUR,

Shortly after your retirement as Registrar in the Education Department of the Bengal Secretariat you became in 1925 Secretary to the State Medical Faculty, and Registrar, Bengal Council of Medical Registration. Your work throughout was characterised by ability of a high order and you proved yourself to be an exceptionally hard working and conscientious officer.

In 1920 the title of Rai Sahib was conferred upon you in recognition of your services and I now congratulate you on the conferment of the title of Rai Bahadur by His Excellency the Viceroy and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction.

RAI MANOMOHAN MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You have served for over a quarter of a century in the Legislative Department and have throughout been a conscientious worker and given proof of great ability and industry. As an expert draftsman your services have been of much value and in 1930 the title of Rai Sahib was conferred upon you in recognition of your services. During the last five or six years the Legislative programme in Bengal has been exceptionally heavy and your assistance during the stress of sessions, has been most useful. Your services have now been further recognised by the conferment of the title of Rai Bahadur. I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction and congratulate you upon its award.

RAI GIRIJA RANJAN DATTA BAHADUR,

Your work in the Berhampore Detention Camp where you have been Assistant Commandant for nearly six years has been exceedingly good and you have built up for yourself a reputation and influence which are of great value in times of stress. Your interest in the Camp has not been confined to purely routine matters and the popularity which you have enjoyed amongst officers, detenus, the police and the general public is an index of the influence for good which you command and which you have applied to good purpose. His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Rai Bahadur and I congratulate you upon its award and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that title.

Khan Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SYED ABDUR RAUF,

You are the President of the Bankra Union Board in the district of Howrah and are also member of both the Sadar Local Board and the District Board. Your sound and level-headed outlook has gained for you the respect of all communities. In your own locality your interest in education has been demonstrated by the foundation of a girls' school and several mukhtabs and you have also generously provided materials worth some two thousand rupees for the metalling of part of the Bankra Mahiari District Board Road. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Khan Sahib. I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of this title and I congratulate you on its award.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD ZAKER HOSAIN,

You joined the Postal Department as a clerk in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Chittagong Division, in 1910 and after a few years became the Head Clerk in that office. Later you held charge of several post offices in the Bengal and Assam Circle including the onerous charge of the Shillong post office. You were then marked for selection as an Assistant Presidency Postmaster in the Calcutta General Post Office, and still serve in that position.

In recognition of your excellent service to the department and your devotion to duty throughout

your career, His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has been pleased to confer the title of Khan Sahib upon you and in handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB UMANATH MAITRA,

You joined the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal, in 1912 and 11 years later entered the service of the High Court as accountant on the Appellate Side. In that position you have systematised the working of the Accounts Department and have been of much assistance in financial matters generally. Your work throughout has been good and you have well merited the conferment upon you by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India of the title of Rai Sahib. I congratulate you on the award and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction.

RAI SAHIB SHAMAPADA BHATTACHARJI,

Your work as Sub-Deputy Collector in charge of the Court of Wards and Cess Attachments Departments in Khulna has been thorough and painstaking. It is mainly through your efforts that the collections of the estates under the Court of Wards in that district have been increased and the condition of the estates much improved. You have a record of 30 years good work as a Sub-Deputy Collector and in recognition of your service His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. In handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB ANUKUL CHANDRA MANNA,

You have been the President of the Pantihal Union Board in Howrah district for the last seven years and have taken a keen interest in the affairs of your Union, paying special attention to problems of sanitation. Your personal donations to charity have also been on a wide scale and include a contribution of sixty-eight thousand rupees for the establishment of a charitable dispensary at Gorbilia together with the sum of thirty-seven thousand rupees in Government Papers to meet its recurring expenses. You have also erected at the cost of twenty thousand rupees a building to house a free Middle English School containing classes in agricultural and industrial training.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I congratulate you upon this award and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction.

RAI SAHIB SUDHIRENDRA NATH MAJUMDAR,

You occupy a great number of positions of public importance in Basirhat and have been Chairman of the local board of that Subdivision. In May of last year you rendered particularly helpful service in the relief of distress in the Hashnabad and Sandeskhali Thanas. Your work involved the opening of 17 centres, arranging for the repair work of 80 roads and 3 tanks, and the raising of subscriptions for the subdivisional distress relief committee. You undertook the supervision of this work personally and yourself recruited a batch of volunteers as

helpers. These activities, which interfered with your practice as a pleader, were in a large measure instrumental in staving off disaster in your Sub-division. In recognition of your services at the time of scarcity and also of the great assistance which you have given in other public matters in the locality, His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I congratulate you and have much pleasure in handing you this Sanad.

RAI SAHIB DHIRENDRA NATH MUKHARJI,

You entered Government service in 1919 and have served in the Excise Department. You have displayed marked ability at the time of the introduction of the Tobacco Tax and also in your investigations into the development of the salt industry in Bengal. In a recent case in Calcutta, your careful analysis of accounts and painstaking comparison of figures was of much assistance in bringing to light the magnitude of the irregularities involved. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB JATISH CHANDRA MUKHERJI,

You entered Government service in the office of the Inspector-General of Police (Eastern Bengal and Assam) and in 1911 were appointed to be a Sub-Registrar. You have maintained an exceptionally brilliant record: for seven years you were

the **Personal Assistant** to the **Inspector-General of Registration** and did valuable work in that position especially in connection with the revision of the **Registration Manual** in 1928. Apart from your official duties you have displayed administrative ability as an **Honorary Magistrate** and as **Vice-Chairman of the Patuakhali Municipality**. His Excellency the **Viceroy and Governor-General of India** has been pleased to confer upon you the title of **Rai Sahib** and I congratulate you upon this award.

RAI SAHIB JATINDRA NATH KONAR,

You have over 30 years service to your credit and by virtue of application and good work have become the **Office Superintendent** in the **Traffic Manager's Office, Eastern Bengal Railway**, in which position you were confirmed in 1935. Throughout your long service you have proved yourself a reliable, capable, and conscientious worker, and His Excellency the **Viceroy and Governor-General of India** has now recognised your services in the award of the title of **Rai Sahib**. I congratulate you upon the award and I have much pleasure in handing you the **Sanad** of that title.

Rao Sahib.

RAO SAHIB KARIAT KOCHUN MENON,

You have completed over 13 years service of outstanding merit in the **Customs Department**. Your comprehensive special knowledge of machinery and your enthusiasm for your work have made you a most valuable officer and your duties have at all times been discharged with conspicuous ability and

devotion. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rao Sahib. I congratulate you on its award and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction.

Khan Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SYED ABU EHIYA BAZLE MURSHEDI,

You joined the Calcutta Police 17 years ago and in 1912 were posted to the Special Branch where you have displayed great ability. You have been placed in charge of work dealing with communism in which you are an acknowledged expert. Since 1929 you have held the post of Labour Intelligence Officer in Special Branch and in recognition of your services the title of Khan Sahib has been awarded to you by His Excellency the Viceroy. I congratulate you and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI KHANDKAR SHAMSUL HUQ,

You have held several positions of public importance in the district of Nadia including those of member of the District Board, Honorary Magistrate and Vice-President of the Gossain-Durgapur Union Board. You take a great interest in that Union and the success which has attended the schemes carried out therein for the improvement of water-supply and communications is in no small measure due to your personal efforts. His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to award you the title of Khan Sahib upon which I congratulate you. I now have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that title.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUR RAUF KHAN
CHAUDHURY,**

You take a keen interest in the local affairs of Satkhira in Khulna district and are intimately connected with most of the public institutions and organisations of that subdivision. You are both Chairman of the Local Board and Vice-Chairman of the Municipality and as an Honorary Magistrate have been invested with 2nd class powers. Your deep interest in all matters affecting the welfare of all classes and communities in Satkhira has earned for you the respect and esteem of the people of the subdivision. His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Khan Sahib and in handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD HARUN-UR-RASHID,

A zamindar and merchant of the Kushtia Subdivision in Nadia, you have for three consecutive terms been the President of the Hatosh-Haripur Union Board where you have a record of distinguished and efficient service. During your term of office, a sum of ten thousand rupees has been spent on the provision of drinking water and on other public utility services, and two primary schools and a public library have been established in the Union. You have also taken active interest in the improvement of social conditions and have established an organisation in furtherance of that object. You have at all times co-operated with the authorities and your energetic administration has made you a most popular President.

In handing you the Sanad of the title of Khan Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy has conferred upon you, I congratulate you.

Rai Sahib. ,

RAI SAHIB GIRINDRA NATH BANARJI,

You joined Government service in 1905: in 1934 you were appointed to officiate as Registrar in the Political Department of the Government of Bengal and were confirmed in this position a year later. Throughout your service your work has been of a very high standard. His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib and I congratulate you. I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that title.

RAI SAHIB KALIPADA BASU,

You have served for 20 years in the Appointment Department of the Bengal Secretariat and have been on deputation to the section dealing with the Reformed Constitution as Head Assistant since 1932. The work which has been demanded of you in that position is of an exceptionally responsible character, a large part of it being normally that of an Assistant Secretary. Moreover, this work has called for the development of special qualities as it has lain in an entirely new field.

In recognition of the exceptionally good service which you have rendered in this position, His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I congratulate you and have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that title.

RAI SAHIB TULSI DAS DE,

You have been the Manager of the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank since its establishment in 1918 and in that capacity have done uniformly good and useful work for the improvement of the bank and have managed it with tact and ability. By efficiently controlling the work of staff, you have been able to effect economy in the cost of the management of the bank and have earned the confidence of co-operative workers and of the public alike. The title of Rai Sahib has now been conferred upon you by His Excellency the Viceroy. I have much pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that title and congratulate you upon its award.

RAI SAHIB PARESHNATH CHAKRABATTI,

You are a Head Assistant in the office of the Director of Public Instruction and are in charge of the budget section where your work, which is of great complexity and importance, has always been admirably performed. You have also, on several occasions, acted as Personal Assistant to the Director.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib, and in handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB PROVAT RANJAN BISWAS,

You entered the Bengal Police 29 years ago as a Sub-Inspector and have risen to officiate in the rank of a Deputy Superintendent through your own ability and merit. For over 10 years you have been employed in the Intelligence Branch where you have been of great assistance in the investigation of

conspiracy cases both in this Province and in Burma. In the course of your work you have continually displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

In recognition of your meritorious work you were awarded the Indian Police Medal in 1934 and His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I have great pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction and I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB RAJENDRA CHANDRA SEN GUPTA,

You belong to the Bengal Judicial Service which you joined some 17 years ago and have served in several stations in this Province and in Assam. You worked for 15 months in the Assam Secretariat during the drafting of the Sylhet Tenancy Bill and the tact and ability you devoted to this work were material in bringing about the smooth passage of an Act of great importance. You have also taken much interest in the cause of female education.

In recognition of your services, His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I congratulate you and hand you the Sanad of this title.

RAI SAHIB HARIDAS CHOWDHURY,

You have served for over 32 years in the Indian Audit Department where your record of work has been consistently good.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I have great pleasure in handing you the Sanad of that distinction and I congratulate you upon its award.

Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver.

RAI SUBENDRA NARAYAN SINHA BAHADUR,

As Chairman of the District Board, Murshidabad, during the three years ending in 1936 you co-operated cordially with the local officers of Government in rendering help to those distressed by the scarcity then prevailing in the district. You were also a prominent member of the District Relief Committee and contributed personally to charitable relief in the district.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Silver for public service in India.

Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze.

MR. PRAMATHA NATH DE,

As District Engineer of Burdwan you displayed energy and devotion to duty in organising and managing test works during the height of the distress caused by drought and scarcity in Burdwan district in 1936. Owing to the lack of an experienced staff and to the very large number of labourers seeking employment, your work was at times extremely arduous. You managed, however, to deal successfully with each emergency as it arose and the fact that the test works were in the end adequate and properly performed was largely due to the service which you rendered.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

MAULVI ABUL HASSAN CHOWDHURY,

As Sub-Registrar of Hasnabad in the 24-Parganas district you rendered voluntary and devoted relief service during the famine of 1936 in the capacity of Honorary Secretary of the Hasnabad Thana Relief Committee. You supervised efficiently the relief operations of the Hasnabad thana, a declared scarcity area, and at the sacrifice of personal comfort worked untiringly for the relief of the distressed people.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

MR. BELAYET ALI,

You started on your own initiative the Bhelua Dighi Night School for the education of lower grade workshop employees and have fostered the growth of the school with success. Your efforts for the uplift of the backward members of your own and other communities are praiseworthy.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

BABU KUMARESH CHANDRA CHATTERJEE,

You have been Chairman of the Sadar Local Board, Burdwan, since 1926 and have also been the President of the Bhedia Union Board: you have been instrumental in sinking some 35 tube-wells in that Union and in constructing a village road about four miles in length. You have also been a Director

of the Burdwan Central Co-operative Bank and President of a Middle English School at Bhedia. The considerable influence and popularity which you command in your locality were placed at the service of the district authorities in dealing with the distress caused by flood and famine in recent years.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

BABU BHUPENDRA NATH GHOSH,

You are a well-known resident of Comilla where you had been invested with second class powers as an Honorary Magistrate. You are connected with several commercial enterprises in Comilla and are always ready to help in public good causes. A year or two ago you launched a paper circulating in Tippera and Noakhali in which you consistently supported the Rural Reconstruction programme of Government and the local officers. The success of this paper owing to your able and energetic editorship has been of great value in the work of rural reconstruction in that part of the province.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

MAULVI KUMARUDDIN AHMED,

As President of the Amadi Union Board in the district of Khulna, your work both for rural uplift and for the preservation of order has earned for you the confidence of officials and of the public. In the recent distress caused by the failure of crops

you worked in the relief operations at great personal sacrifice and yourself presented gifts to those in distress.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

BABU DHANAPATI MONDAL,

As an Overseer in the Irrigation Department you have done exceptionally good work on the construction of the Damodar Canal head works and also on the maintenance of special repairs to those head-works from 1926 onwards. In performing these duties you have shown yourself to be a capable, conscientious and reliable officer and have earned the approbation of those under whom you have served.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

BABU SUKUMAR NAG,

You entered the Bengal Junior Civil Service in August 1925 and after ten years service in the districts were deputed to the Sandeshkhali Thana which was at the time a declared famine area, being the area most seriously affected in the whole of the 24-Parganas. You continued in this remote region for eight months sacrificing your comfort by living in a small boat throughout that period and working unflaggingly for the alleviation of distress.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I present you with the Kaisar-I-Hind Medal in Bronze for public service in India.

**Medal of the Order of the British Empire
(Gallantry Medal).**

MR. GEORGE JOHN ADAMSON,

In May 1936 you were in charge of two Port Police launches escorting a cargo of defective dynamite that was being taken for destruction up the river Hooghly. After some fifteen miles, the barge containing the dynamite proved unseaworthy and after attempts had been made for five hours to keep it afloat by bailing, it was found necessary to beach it,—a process which took a further five and a half hours. It was then found impossible to unload some of the cargo at the bottom of the barge and it became necessary to refloat the barge and sink it in deep water.

Though your responsibility did not go beyond the provision of an escort you took part in the bailing of the barge and in beaching it, a task which involved guiding it to the shore by hand. You also rendered assistance in the refloating and sinking operations. Throughout the whole period a small accident would have been likely to have caused a disaster of the first magnitude not only to those with whom you were at work but also to the surrounding country and mills.

In recognition of your great courage and coolness on that occasion His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award you the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Gallantry.

MR. CECIL FRANCIS KELLY,

In May 1936 some 11½ tons of defective dynamite had to be taken up the river Hooghly for destruction and you were given the task of piloting the launch which towed the barge containing this dangerous cargo. After some 15 miles, the barge proved unseaworthy and after attempts had been made for five hours to keep it afloat by bailing, it was found necessary to beach it, a process which took a further five and a half hours. It was then found impossible to unload some of the cargo at the bottom of the barge which had therefore to be refloated and sunk in deep water.

You supervised the handling of the barge throughout, remaining on the barge itself whilst it was towed off the beach and superintending its handling in the current by the aid of 2 launches until it was safely sunk. Without your skilled assistance the feat could not have been accomplished. Throughout the whole period a small accident would have resulted in practically certain death to you and those with you, and would have caused a disaster of the first magnitude to the surrounding mills.

You displayed great coolness and courage in trying circumstances in recognition of which His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award you the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Gallantry.

Indian Police Medal.

THAKUR SINGH LAMA,

You are a rifleman in the Assam Rifles. On 14th of March 1932, at Rowmarighat a non-commissioned officer ran "amok" and killed several persons. You displayed conspicuous gallantry by effecting an entrance into the room in which he had taken refuge and securing this desperate man, who was known to be armed with a rifle and well supplied with ammunition.

In recognition of this courageous act His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India has been pleased to award you the Indian Police Medal for Gallantry.

I congratulate you.

BABU KALI MOHAN KUSHARI,

You have put in over a quarter of a century's work in the Police force and have proved yourself an outstanding success both in ordinary district work and as a senior District Intelligence Officer. During the Civil Disobedience Movement and at the height of terrorist activity you were a source of strength to those with whom you worked, though your own life was constantly threatened. You have received numerous rewards and commendations and have been of great assistance to the officers under whom you have served. I have now much pleasure in decorating you with the Indian Police Medal and congratulate you upon its award.

Imperial Service Medal.

MUNSHI HELALUDDIN KHAN,

You rendered faithful service to the Posts and Telegraphs Department for over 30 years, and have lately been the overseer of the Malda-Rajmahal line in this province. You have at all times placed the interests of your department above personal considerations.

I have now much pleasure in presenting you with the Imperial Service Medal which His Majesty the King-Emperor of India has been pleased to award you in recognition of your long and faithful service.

His Excellency's Address to Scouter Jamini Sarkar in presenting him with a Certificate of Merit on 19th November 1937.

SCOUTER JAMINI SARKAR,

You became a scout in the Second Calcutta Association in 1925 and have remained in the movement ever since, giving it the benefit of your experience and enthusiasm in various positions of responsibility. For several years you have acted as quartermaster in the training camps organised by Provincial Headquarters, and in your own association have rendered service as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Cubmaster, Assistant Secretary and Quartermaster. Your record of good deeds includes an occasion when you gave assistance to the relatives of a man who had died of Cholera, and another on which you saved the life of a boy who had got into difficulty when swimming.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to grant you a certificate of merit in recognition of your good services to the movement. It gives me great pleasure, in handing you the certificate, to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
of the statue of late Sir Hariram Goenka,
on 19th November 1937.***

GENTLEMEN,

We have met here to-day to commemorate the life of one who spent many years in this city and for a long period was one of its leading citizens. It is most fitting that in this place, in the midst of the city which he loved and served so well and at a point where it will be seen by persons of every class and type who pass along the busy thoroughfares nearby—it is most fitting that we should here erect a memorial statue to the late Sir Hariram Goenka.

The name of Goenka is no more native to this province than my own, but it is one which for a great many years has been associated with this city and comes as naturally to the lips of the citizens of Calcutta, as any of the surnames of Bengal. When Sir Hariram was born some seventy-five years ago his father had already established a business in Calcutta and it was his life's work to supervise that business, expand it and watch over its interests. It was at a very early age that he was first engaged in his father's firm—some fifteen or sixteen at the most—but he brought to it that shrewdness and farsightedness for which his race and family are famed and it prospered under him.

Were Hariram Goenka's only claim to fame the fact that he had ably managed his paternal business and had become wealthy and successful, we should

not, however worthy he might have been, have gathered here to-day to do honour to his memory. Success was a worthy object in his eyes, but beyond success he contrived to keep in view the ideal of service—service to his community, service to his religion and service to the city which his family had adopted and made its own.

It was as long ago as 1891 that he first became a Councillor for Ward 7 of the Corporation: he remained its representative for thirty-four years, being returned unopposed throughout that period and retiring only when he retired from public life altogether. His interest in the Corporation and all matters affecting it is, I am sure, not yet forgotten by those whom he served therein, and in the public meeting which was held shortly after his death very eloquent tributes to his services were paid by those who had worked with him. At one time also he was a Commissioner for the Port of Calcutta and in 1916-17 he filled the position of Sheriff of this city. It would be wearisome were I to enumerate all the Societies and Institutions to which he belonged and which he served in various capacities, but I think if I may make a generalisation, I shall be right in saying that in these matters his interests lay for the most part in two directions—in the relief of hardship and suffering and in fostering the religious or semi-religious institutions of his own community.

I have said that success was not Sir Hariram's only object in life and have given a brief indication of the manner in which he followed his ideal of service to his community and to the city in which he lived. I must also add that success and

the acquisition of much wealth in no way induced in him a spirit of selfishness: his donations to all the causes in which he was interested were made on a most princely scale. It is not now the time to detail these, but I will just say that apart from what he gave jointly with his family it is known that he gave personally some Rs. 7,90,000 in this way; I am assured that his unknown donations to private individuals or families were made in the same munificent manner and were distributed to those who needed them irrespective of their caste or creed.

When he reached about sixty years of age, Sir Hariram retired from active life and devoted himself to his religion, though I believe he did not entirely divorce himself from the business interests which he had served for over forty years. The last few years of his life were clouded by family misfortunes, which he bore philosophically, though no doubt they weighed upon him. When he died in 1935 full of age and honours, the size and representative character of the meeting which was held to express the prevailing sorrow at his death showed in what honour he had been held throughout his life. It was then I understand decided to erect some form of memorial to his memory in the city which he had loved and it is as a result of this resolve that we are met here to-day to unveil this memorial.

Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in unveiling the memorial statue to the late Sir Hariram Goenka.

***His Excellency's Farewell Broadcast to
the people of Bengal, on 21st November
1937.***

This, as you know, is a farewell broadcast. I have said goodbye to a large number of people during the last two or three weeks and there are many others to whom I would have liked in person to say goodbye individually or collectively had my time permitted: if any of them should be listening to me now, I hope that each one of them will take this as a personal word of farewell.

I am glad too that the wireless has given me the opportunity to-night to speak to many whom otherwise no words of mine could now reach.

Goodbye is often a difficult word to utter and it is especially so for me at the present time. Bengal has come to occupy a large part of my life and for the last five and a half years has filled very nearly the whole of it—filled it with problems of engrossing interest. Yet I have nothing very elaborate to say to you at this moment—just a few words hastily put together in time snatched with difficulty during the last few days. Nor do I propose to review the past: in Bengal now everyone would do well to look rather to the future.

I believe that, looking forward, there are solid grounds for optimism. The financial position of the province has been re-established: terrorism has been brought under control, and lines of economic development for the future have been sketched out.

Still more, there have been signs that men of influence in the province have begun to realise the waste and futility of barren introspection and embittered controversy: I can think of nothing better for the future of Bengal than that such a realisation should spread and should result in a determined effort to carry on the political life of the country in an atmosphere all the more stimulating because it will be free from rancour. I believe that if a determined effort is made on the part of those who are in a position to command respect and following—if a determined effort is made by such men to build the future of Bengal on sound lines, there is no reason why their efforts should not be fully successful. I am aware, perhaps more fully than most, of obstacles in the way of real progress—obstacles that might at any time become formidable; but those obstacles are there to be met and overcome. The greatest possible obstacle would be a recrudescence, not necessarily of terrorist acts, but of that state of mind in which terrorist acts are possible or probable. I fervently hope that the policy which the Government of Bengal are pursuing as regards terrorism may evoke the kind of response that is essential if that policy is ultimately to be successful. And here may I say that nothing that has happened in the last few days has been prompted so far as I am concerned by any desire on my part to see a particular stage reached before I leave Bengal: I am profoundly thankful that it has been found possible in my time to go as far as my Ministers have now gone, but I would ask you to believe that I myself regard the measures they are taking as part of a deliberate and consistent policy to be put

into practice as and when responsible men with a full sense of their responsibility judge the time appropriate.

May I express the hope that feelings of communal bitterness, all too prominent of late, may with the passage of time and with a greater appreciation of realities be allayed. I would ask the Hindu community to remember that Bengal is no less the country of the Moslems than of the Hindus: that Moslems are in a numerical majority and that they have in fact, for reasons into which I am not concerned to enter, lacked in the past advantages which their Hindu fellow countrymen have enjoyed. I would ask the Moslems to remember that the province needs, and cannot afford to dispense with, the services which the Hindu community with their ability, their long traditions of association with the administration and their advanced culture are eminently qualified to render.

I have had occasion during the last week or two to take farewell of certain branches of the public services. May I address a last word to those whose duties do not bring them to the fore on ceremonial occasions or whose position does not draw them into the limited sphere of the social gatherings that a Governor can attend. I would like to assure them that they are as much in my mind at this moment as their more prominent fellow servants of the State, and that however humble a man's position, he may go about his work with his head erect if he is conscious of duty well and faithfully discharged.

In six days time the Governorship of Bengal will rest upon my successor, Lord Brabourne. Parting

as I do, with many regrets, from the province with whose affairs I have been so intimately bound up, I cannot but say quite simply how glad I was when I learnt some months ago that it is Lord Brabourne who is to succeed me. I shall never forget Bengal, its problems or the many friends I am leaving behind, and I shall always pray that Divine Providence may vouchsafe to her in rich measure those blessings of tranquillity and prosperity which we all so ardently desire.

Goodbye.

SPEECHES

delivered by

His Excellency The Right Hon'ble

LORD BRABOURNE, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. M.C.

Governor of Bengal

during

1937-38

His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's Day Dinner on 30th November 1937.

SIR WILLIAM, MR. CHISHOLM AND GENTLEMEN,

I trust that you have room in your hearts for a little sympathy for one who finds himself in a somewhat difficult position among you this evening. To reply to the toast of the guests after a short three days in Calcutta will, I hope, strike you as an ordeal calculated to make the stoutest spirit quail just a little, especially when the reply is entrusted to one, like me, who can lay claim to no connection whatsoever with Scotland. I suppose that, in a way, that is really as it should be as your guests, presumably, come under that heading but I have, not unnaturally, in mind the fact that in Sir John Anderson you had a Governor who, from your point of view, came from the right side of the Tweed whereas I must admit, unblushingly, to having, through no fault of my own, been born in London and to having my home in Kent—about as far from Scotland as it is possible to get in Great Britain. Having disclosed these, no doubt, already open secrets—and here may I add, in parenthesis, that I am as proud of my native Kent as you are of Scotland—I would like to say that, in spite of them, I share with you a great affection for Scotland where I have spent many happy holidays in the past and hope for many more in the future. My admiration for Scotland does not end with my appreciation of her lovely countryside but extends wholeheartedly to her greatest export—her men and

her women. No one realises better than I do how much Calcutta owes to you gentlemen and to the many generations of Scotsmen who have gone before you and I welcome this opportunity of saying so so soon after my arrival.

Having, I hope, made clear to you some of the causes for my diffidence in rising to reply to this toast, I will, to use the old Parliamentary phrase used by all those who rise, for the first time to address their fellow Members; "crave the indulgence of the House on this my Maiden Speech".

And now, let me turn to my fellow guests. I know that they, like our hosts are a very distinguished company of acknowledged standing and high repute in this city. I know that, in being made their spokesman so very soon after my arrival, I am somewhat in the position of the new boy at school being put through his paces for the benefit of those who have gone through it before. Unfortunately, there are hardly any of them that I know well enough to take liberties with and I have no intention of blotting my copy book so early in my career among you. My thanks in their name will, therefore, be in very general terms but none the less genuine for all that.

Mr. Chairman, I hope you will now permit me to strike a more personal note for a moment and say how very deeply Lady Brabourne and I appreciate the warm welcome which has been extended to us by all you gentlemen to-night. We have often heard of your kindly friendship and of your generous hospitality. Lady Brabourne has

not been privileged to experience the latter, as yet, but I have and it has gone far to make me feel at home already.

We have not yet had time to make detailed acquaintance with the varied charms of Calcutta, and perhaps that is as well too because I am saved from the delicate and difficult position of seeming to make comparisons with Bombay. There is an old saying about being off with the old love before you are on with the new and I doubt whether a bare two months is really a decent interval for a man to declare his new affections, whatever he may feel; all I can say is, speaking both for Lady Brabourne and myself, that we had a look last March and what we saw made us want to see more. There is another saying which, I cannot help feeling, meets our case somewhat aptly, namely the one about comparisons being odious; we had a wonderfully happy four years in Bombay; it is our firm intention to have an equally happy time in Bengal.

After all, there are some advantages in being a new arrival: one of them is that you cannot expect me to say anything of very great importance and that, from many points of view, is a good thing. It has, I know, been the custom for some years past for the Governor, on this occasion, to have a good deal to say about the affairs of the Province and the outlook of his Government; and I may say that I have found in Sir John Anderson's speeches, on this occasion, a revealing history of the problems of Bengal during the past five years. They bring out so very clearly the manner in which his commanding intellect, his wide experience, his single-minded devotion to duty

and his deep sympathy with the people of Bengal were brought to bear on the great task that confronted him. I am fortunate in coming to a Province whose resources, so long inadequate, have been amplified by the efforts of my predecessor and those who collaborated with him,—a Province moreover whose prestige and weight in the counsels of India has risen high under his guidance.

To husband and augment the new resources of Bengal, to expend them wisely and fruitfully to promote the welfare of the Province in the paths of progress, communal harmony and good government and to hold high the fame of Bengal among the Provinces of India is the task that lies ahead: it is a task worthy of the highest capacities of the Provincial Ministry and of the political sense of the Legislature and the people: if there is any contribution that I personally can make to these ends, I shall count it a privilege to do so.

Sir William Lamond has mentioned a few topics of which, no doubt, I shall hear more as time goes on and I appreciate the candour and directness with which he has expressed his opinions. I would like to associate myself particularly with what he has said about one who would, I am sure, occupy an honoured place among you if he were here—His Excellency the Viceroy. The changed conditions of Government in India have resulted in even closer and more personal relationships between the Viceroy and the Governors of Provinces than might formerly have been required: many spheres of activity which the Central Government so long

could control and co-ordinate have passed now into the hands of autonomous Governments in the Provinces; in some of these spheres of activity the Viceroy alone remains as the constitutional link between the Provinces and the Centre. I am giving away none but the most obvious of secrets in saying that the burden thrown personally on the Viceroy has been a heavy one, and, speaking to some extent as an inside observer, I can say quite simply that I share to the full your admiration for the manner in which His Excellency is discharging the responsibilities of his great office.

. Of current events in the province itself I can claim little knowledge other than what I have been able to gather during the brief period of my leave: but, speaking in general, I hope I shall not be considered rash in giving expression to a feeling of cautious optimism: troubles no doubt lie ahead—they always will—but I think I may say that Provincial Autonomy in Bengal—as elsewhere—has taken its first fences—and some pretty big ones too—without coming unseated.

I was much interested to hear what Sir William Lamond had to say about labour—not only on account of the obvious importance of the subject but also because it was a matter that, inevitably, attracted a good deal of my attention in Bombay. I have had no opportunity to study the labour problems of Bengal in any detail—but I know that the Ministry have fully appreciated the importance of the subject and have declared a definite policy which they intend to pursue and which they have already taken steps to put into practice. It will,

I am sure, be a somewhat lengthy business: the representation of labour by election to the Legislature is an entirely new feature in the political picture of India—a feature that neither Governments nor employees can ignore: but, given a determination neither to burk the real problems nor to be led astray by imaginary ones, I see no reason why employers, labour and Governments alike should not find a ground of common interest in the peaceful and progressive adjustment of their relationships.

I have been led into this matter of labour because this present company includes many who have a very close concern with that particular problem as employers on a large scale, but I started off with the good intention of avoiding current politics and it is time that I got back to my real business which was to reply to the toast. That your guests are enjoying themselves must, I think, be obvious to the most diffident host. The intellectual fare put before us by the previous speaker has been highly palatable and I, for one, have always had a great liking for Haggis—a liking which, from a geographical point of view, is a somewhat unnatural one. We thank you Mr. Chairman and your fellow hosts for a happy evening in your midst and I know that I am speaking for all my fellow guests when I say that we all hope you will invite us again.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
British Indian Association on 8th
December 1937.***

We, the members of the British Indian Association, representing landed and other vested interests in Bengal, beg to offer most respectfully to the Lady Brabourne and yourself our most cordial and hearty welcome on the assumption of your high office as Governor of this Presidency.

Your Excellency's family tradition, political experience and your well-acclaimed popularity as Governor of the Presidency of Bombay augur well for the future of our Province and we have high hopes in your selection as our new administrator.

Your arrival in Bengal synchronises with the new legislative bodies having started their work under the New Constitution. The Reforms, which mark a distinct advance towards a greater realisation of parliamentary democracy in the country sufficiently broad-based, have very considerably enlarged the opportunities of representatives in the legislatures to undertake measures for the amelioration of the condition of the less fortunate of our countrymen whose distress is known to all, and in the carrying out of a programme conducive to their welfare there cannot be any dissenting voice anywhere.

The landholding community of the Province have extended their help and co-operation to the Government of Your Excellency's predecessor for a smooth and successful working of the constitution

in this Presidency, of which you are now the constitutional head. We look up to you, Sir, for able and courageous guidance of the vessel of State, to steer its way through communal fog and communistic squalls to the bound harbour.

Under the New Constitution Act you have special responsibilities, though it has been the general desire of political India that they will not ordinarily be called into play to come into conflict with the policy of the Ministry responsible to the elected legislatures. We note with pleasure that the New Constitution Act is committed to the maintenance of the given system of class-relations and that it cannot go outside the fundamental postulates of the existing system. But we view with concern that disruptive forces are afloat in the country which are threatening the foundations of the social structure. The movement against vested interests is breeding instability and insecurity. In Bengal private property in agricultural land is firmly rooted in Regulation I of 1793. But the rights of property are now in hazard; the professedly communistic movement in the countryside involves encroachment on the rights of private property and it is abundantly clear that the society has now need of an instrument to prevent the emergence of the threat to security, without which liberty in any society cannot function.

The New Constitution Act stands for maintenance and preservation of the existing system of property-relations and proprietary rights. Your Excellency is also specially charged under the Act and under

the Instrument of Instructions with the sacred task of protecting property from revolutionary attacks. We, therefore, sincerely hope that the State will not falter in the performance of its duty and, should any occasion arise, which, we fear, may arise at no distant date, Your Excellency will afford just and deserving protection by timely intervention and wise guidance to that section of the people under your charge who have been enjoying proprietary rights in land under lawful authority. In the struggle between divergent, competing interests we trust that Your Excellency's wise policy will be devoted to a search for a common welfare without a breakdown of the very basis of property-relations. We confidently hope that our rights, recognised as they are in the New Constitution Act itself, will therefore be safe in Your Excellency's hands.

In conclusion, we beg leave to convey through Your Excellency our assurance of unswerving loyalty and attachment to the Throne and Person of our beloved Sovereign and readiness to loyally co-operate with the Government in matters tending to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people and peace of our country.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
Welcome presented by the British
Indian Association on 8th December
1937.***

MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR AND GENTLEMEN,

May I, at the outset, acknowledge your assurances of loyalty to the Person and Throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor. I would also thank you most cordially for the welcome you have extended on behalf of your Association to Lady Brabourne and myself.

You have been generous indeed in your references to me personally and I deeply appreciate the confidence you have been good enough to express.

Realising that you represent the land-holding and vested interests in the country I welcome your appreciation of the opportunities afforded by the Constitution for the amelioration of the conditions of life of your less fortunate brethren. I sympathise with your feelings of apprehension that the drastic changes that have taken place in the political structure of the Province may involve a risk of ill-considered changes in its social and economic structure also. You would, however, I think, be wise to draw a distinction between the avoidance of ill-considered change and the prevention of change of any kind. There is a distinction between upholding the principle of property and adopting the attitude that readjustments affecting property cannot be countenanced. The principle of private

property is, I think, as secure in Great Britain as it was half a century ago; but the obligations that have been imposed on the propertied classes of the community for the benefit of those less favoured have been progressively marked. It is my hope, as it must be the hope of everyone, that it will not be beyond the practical sense and political wisdom of the Province to solve, within its own confines and upon its own responsibility, the problems that arise in connection with the ownership of property and the obligation that such ownership entails. It is true that Parliament, by imposing certain responsibilities on the Governor-General and the Governor, has reserved to itself general and special powers to bring up for its own consideration measures affecting the fundamental principles on which the land system of Bengal is based; but, remembering the great social and economic changes that have taken place in England during the last half century, I would counsel you not to regard those provisions of the constitution as designed to prevent, under any circumstances, such ordered adjustment in the social and economic structure of the Province as may commend itself to responsible Governments with the approval of the legislature. I would rather commend to you the importance of organising opinion, both inside and outside the legislature as to the dangers that beset all classes of society in an attack on the principle of property as such; and if these dangers are realised I feel that, with the talents and resources at your command, you should be under no undue handicap in making your voice heard effectively in the country.

Controversy in politics is a thing from which no class is exempt and from which no authority can protect you. Nor is it my intention to prejudge the particular problems of legislation that confront you at the moment: but you may rest assured, gentlemen, that I shall welcome all genuine efforts to promote a clearer understanding of those momentous issues with which you are concerned.

Meantime, gentlemen, I can assure you that my Government, while desirous of mitigating hardships, fully appreciate the importance of removing misapprehensions that may arise as to the nature of existing obligations, or as to the precise extent of the legislative changes now under discussion. When questions of this kind are in the air it is inevitable that conflicting doctrines should be preached with all the terseness and vigour that characterises political propaganda of any kind. But since my reply to you will reach a wider circle I would remind those who have the cause of progress at heart that few things can be more dangerous to the success of progressive measures than an impression that the foundations of law are being undermined before the legislature has pronounced its judgment.

May I say in conclusion how very pleased I am to have had this opportunity of meeting you and of listening to a frank expression of your views.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Bengal National Chamber of Commerce
on 8th December 1937.***

On behalf of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the oldest organisation of the Indian Mercantile Community in India and the representatives of varied commercial and industrial interests of this Province, we deem it a great privilege to accord Your Excellency and The Lady Brabourne, on the occasion of your assumption of the high office of the Governor of Bengal, a warm welcome and to tender our sincere wishes for a successful regime.

Your Excellency assumes office at an eventful stage in our political history. The old order has changed, and the new dispensation has just been ushered into this Province under the able and sympathetic guidance of Sir John Anderson, Your Excellency's predecessor in office. It will, however, be the responsibility of Your Excellency to pilot the reconstituted ship of State safely towards its destined goal. The members of the Chamber are aware that the functions and powers of the Governor have undergone considerable modifications under the Reformed Constitution. But they are equally conscious that the influence the Governor will wield in the administration by his disinterested advice and counsel will still be considerable.

It is in the light of this picture of the recent constitutional changes that we should like to bring to Your Excellency's notice for sympathetic consideration certain circumstances peculiar to the economy of this Province. An unfortunate feature of our economic life is that in the sphere of its trade,

commerce and industry, the people of this Province play a relatively small part. This, we understand is in striking contrast to the conditions which obtain in the Presidency of Bombay and with which Your Excellency is well acquainted. Happily, however, the tide in this Province has begun to turn, and Bengalis are becoming increasingly eager to secure their proper share in the development of trade, commerce and industry. Withal they are finding it extremely difficult to make a headway in view of the fact that they are late comers in the field. They, therefore, need and deserve every encouragement and assistance not only from the Government but also from those who play a large part in the industry and commerce of this Province. It is in this sphere that Your Excellency may render an invaluable service to this Province by wise counsel in the administration as well as by exercising the great influence of your exalted office to bring about a friendly relationship between European and Indian commercial men, in which those who are able to assist will willingly extend their hand of co-operation to those who need assistance. The solicitousness which Your Excellency has always shown in matters affecting the economic conditions of the people of a sister Province lead us to believe that our hopes and aspirations will find in Your Excellency a sympathetic and ardent champion.

In conclusion, we would again express our fervent wish for the success of Your Excellency's regime, and our heartfelt thanks for giving us this opportunity of offering to Your Excellency our sincerest felicitations.

Wishing Your Excellency and The Lady Brabourne long life, health and happiness.

His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce on 8th December 1937.

SIR HARI SANKAR PAUL AND GENTLEMEN,

I can assure you that the sentiments which you have this morning expressed in welcoming Lady Brabourne and myself to this Province have been very greatly appreciated by us both. Indeed I count myself fortunate to have been chosen to preside in turn over the destinies of two of the great Provinces of this country and I trust that the picture which you have painted of my term of office in the sister Presidency may find its counterpart in the actualities of my coming term of office in Bengal.

Believe me, gentlemen, I am deeply conscious of the extent of the responsibility to which I have been called, and am heartened by the manner in which responsible and old-established Associations such as yours have extended to me a welcoming hand in succession to so distinguished a predecessor. The fact that out of five seats in the Legislative Assembly allotted to Indian Commercial bodies two are enjoyed by your Association is a clear indication of the importance which the framers of the present Scheme of representation attached to your views; and, in providing from one of those seats the first Finance Minister of the Province of Bengal, you have shown how effective that representation can be: that fact itself should assure you that the views

of the Commercial Community whose interests you have at heart will carry weight in the deliberations of the Ministry.

It is indeed striking to learn that the Bengali race which has spread itself over the whole sub-continent of India by its ability in professional work should not yet have turned its attention to the world of commerce and achieved therein a similar success. Perhaps the distinctive conditions that have obtained in this part of India in the matter of land tenure and the ownership of land, have also had their effect in diverting the attention of the bulk of your countrymen from the pursuit of success in Commerce and Industry. Whether this is so or not, I feel sure that in future, when their destinies will lie so much in their own hands, your countrymen will not deny themselves whatever legitimate opportunities they may desire for entering into the world of Commerce and Industry. I have been informed that the attention of the Universities of Bengal has been directed to the possibilities of greater liaison between educationists and men of commerce; though this development is still in its infancy, I am told that it has already given evidence of promise for the future and has shewn that men prominent in the commercial world are willing to co-operate.

I fully agree with you as to the value of friendly relationships between European and Indian commercial men and, I would add also—between the many castes and races concerned in the commercial world. I have no doubt that the furtherance of such friendly relations would widen

the field in which the young men of Bengal could exercise their talents in the strenuous competition of commercial life. For my own part, I may assure you that I shall take every opportunity to further the proper and legitimate interests of those who dwell in the Province which has now been committed to my charge as Governor.

Let me, in conclusion, thank you once more for the very kind terms in which you have welcomed Lady Brabourne and me to Bengal.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Marwari Association on 8th December
1937.***

We, the members of the Marwari Association, beg to accord to Your Excellency and The Lady Brabourne our most respectful and cordial welcome on your assumption of the exalted office of the Governor of Bengal.

The Marwari Community which our Association has the honour to represent, is engaged in commercial and industrial pursuits throughout the country. Having a very large portion of the trade and commerce of the Presidency in our hands we form an important section of its population and, as such, are interested equally with our sister communities in the progress and advancement of our country in every direction, and believing as we do, that for the realisation of India's aspirations, a mutual understanding between the Government and the people, based on the willing co-operation of both is essential, we take this opportunity of assuring Your Excellency that our endeavours will always be towards the furtherance of this object.

Many problems of great social, political and economic importance, affecting the peace and tranquillity of the Presidency and the health, happiness and general prosperity of the people, are awaiting solution. Realising, as we do, that a great concentration of sincere efforts on the part of both the Government and the people is needed for the satisfactory solution of these problems we consider

it a happy sign of the times that the country has given a clear verdict in favour of working the present Constitution with the nation-building departments in charge of popular Ministers. We hope that Your Excellency's administration will be characterised by successful efforts to improve the economic life of the Province by an intensive development of its material resources. Such measures, we venture to believe, are bound to strengthen the links that bind the people with the Government and win their willing and whole-hearted co-operation.

Your Excellency endeared yourself to the people of Bombay by your unassuming nature, your simplicity and sauvity and lastly by your tact and sympathy during the strenuous days of your regime in the Bombay Presidency, and we have every confidence that Bengal would find in Your Excellency, a Governor broad-minded, sympathetic and ever anxious to advance the legitimate aspirations of the people.

In the course of your Excellency's last public speech in Bombay Your Excellency alluded to commerce, a matter on which you have bestowed the closest attention throughout your administration in Bombay. Your Excellency's view "There is not much a Governor can do, by order, in the commercial world, but by suggestion and the giving of a lead to public feeling, he can, I think, be of considerable use" has our full support and we will without difficulty recall instances in which Your Excellency acted in the like manner while holding the reins of administration in the Bombay Presidency. Your Excellency alluded in particular to

one matter of special interest to our community namely, speculation, in the curbing of which your Excellency gave a notable lead. Your Excellency's interest in such matters is real and sustained and we do not doubt that Your Excellency will accord the same attention to commercial affairs in this Province as well.

We also recall to our memory the services rendered to the Bombay Presidency by Lady Brabourne who had always been ready to supplement Your Excellency's good work by her solicitude, particularly for the women and children of the Presidency and for suffering humanity in general, and we are glad to think that her social activities will continue to endure to the lasting benefit not only of the sick and infirm but also of the womanhood of this Province.

In conclusion, we pray that health and happiness may attend Your Excellency and Lady Brabourne during your stay in Bengal and when the time comes for Your Excellency to lay down the reins of office, Your Excellency may be able to look back to a record of moral and material prosperity in the Presidency the destiny of which it has pleased His Majesty to place in your hands.

His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Marwarl Association, Calcutta, on 8th December 1937.

MR. BAIJNATH BAJORIA AND GENTLEMEN

I thank you for the kind welcome you have extended to Lady Brabourne and myself and for the generous references that you have made to our sojourn in Bombay. I am no stranger to your community, whose members are to be found in key positions on the trade routes from far off Tibet to the borders of Western India. To those who pursue your now traditional calling, peaceful and ordered progress and the prosperity of the country is, I know, a matter of deep concern; and it is a happy and significant augury that you should declare yourselves so unequivocally in favour of utilising to the full the great opportunities offered by the Constitution to promote the well-being of the Provinces under the regime of responsible Governments.

I have already been made aware of the importance that my Ministers attach to developing the natural and industrial resources of the Province—and, though in this matter the responsibility for initiative must rest on those who command the support of the Legislature, I have no hesitation in assuring you that such measures will always command my ready interest and support.

From your hint on the subject of speculation, I infer that you are apprehensive not of the intelligent and enterprising acceptance of risks—a form of speculation that is implicit in any contract

relating to the future—but of the ill-effects that may result to Commerce and Industry—and may I add agriculture—if operations in the markets pass the border line of legitimate enterprise and degenerate into reckless and uninformed gambling.

With that broad distinction few, if any, responsible men will, I think, quarrel. But how far it is possible for Governments by legislative or administrative action to demarcate the boundary between one class of speculation and the other is a matter on which there is room for considerable difference of opinion. If, however, as I take it, your remarks imply a determination of the part of your Association and its members to set a standard of courage and enterprise combined with responsibility, they will, I am sure, be welcome both to my Government and to the commercial, industrial and agricultural communities.

I cannot conclude what I have to say to you this morning without thanking you for your appreciative references to Lady Brabourne's efforts to help good causes in Bombay. I can assure you on her behalf that those who give their help or their services to the women and children and to the cause of health in Bengal will find in her a willing and enthusiastic supporter. We have already heard of the generosity of individual members of your community in connection with welfare activities and it is doubly welcome to hear from you this morning of your interest, as an Association, in this great field of activity where so much remains to be done.

Let me thank you, gentlemen, once again for your welcome and for your good wishes which I much appreciate.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Bengal Mahajan Sabha on 8th December 1937.***

We accord Your Excellency and The Lady Brabourne, on behalf of the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, our hearty welcome on the occasion of your arrival as Governor of this great Province. We greatly appreciate this opportunity of meeting Your Excellency to-day, more especially as we do feel that in consenting to receive our address, Your Excellency is moved by a sincere desire to learn at first hand the views and aspirations that beset the indigenous commercial community of this Province at the present moment. In this faith we are encouraged to express our feelings unreservedly, at the same time assuring Your Excellency of our whole-hearted support in the progressive measures that may be introduced during your incumbency in the real interests of this Province.

At the outset we are constrained to draw the attention of Your Excellency to the deep sense of disappointment with which the members of this Sabha are oppressed owing to their disenfranchisement in the new constitution. Inland trade and indigenous banking are the two main commercial interests represented by this Association, and the claim of the Bengal Mahajan Sabha to be recognised as a body fit to represent the above interests in the central and local legislatures was always recognised ever since the introduction of constitutional reforms in India, and the members of this Sabha were so long and till recently taking a keen interest and

contributing their mite to the political and material advancement of this country. The business community is necessarily keenly sensitive to changes in the political situation in the country, and it is most unfortunate that at a time when a remarkable political advancement has been effected in the constitution of India and the franchise of the people very largely extended, an important long-established commercial body like the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, has been deprived of the right and privilege that it was enjoying for the last quarter of a century. Though it is not the proper time nor is it our intention to embarrass Your Excellency in any way with the details of our grievances, Your Excellency will, we hope, appreciate the fact that the result of this disenfranchisement of a very important section of the commercial interest will create a void in the whole picture of the autonomous constitution that has so solemnly been introduced in this country.

Now that provincial autonomy has been established, we hope that the biggest problems of Bengal, namely, the problems of poverty, unemployment, disease and illiteracy, will be successfully tackled by its Government. We know that these problems cannot be solved by a national Government without plentiful resources at its command, and with this object in view we would request Your Excellency to advise the Ministry to set about reducing expenditure from the very beginning.

All attempt is now being made by the present Government in Bengal to effect radical and drastic changes in the land-system of this Province, and

the place of intermediaries in the land-system is being sought to be made superfluous. The present poverty of Indian cultivator is not, however, so much due to the existence of intermediaries, as they are due to the want of skill and efficiency on the part of the cultivators and other unfavourable conditions. The drainage and irrigation system, prevention of self-destructive cultivation, improvement of the soil and scientific system of marketing—these are some of the factors upon which the productivity of the soil and the lot of the cultivator will depend.

Even if these improvements are effected, it is certain that simply agriculture with a high standard of cultivation will not effect full prosperity. A vast population, existence of a middle class for whom cultivation is not a suitable occupation, seasonal unemployment of the peasants—all these problems can be faced with a scheme of industrialisation along with agricultural improvement. The reform of land-system is tied up with the development of industry, both large-scale and cottage, in order to give work to our millions of unemployed and raise the pitiful standard of life of our people. These are some of the problems which need careful handling at the hands of the administrators of Bengal.

Though it is premature to make an observation on the working of the reformed constitution at the present moment we find that Bengal has been fortunate to have some Ministers in charge of her administrative affairs who are men of ability, grit and public spirit. We hope that if given proper

time and opportunity, they by their efforts will be able to lead the Province on to the path of communal harmony, peace and prosperity.

We sincerely hope that our views will be found helpful and that Your Excellency's Government will be prevailed upon to introduce measures that are likely to bring all-round progress—material, social and political—to the children of the soil. The great qualities of which you have already given evidence as Governor of the Province of Bombay lead us to believe that our hopes are not ill-founded.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Brabourne long life, health and happiness.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
of Welcome presented by the Bengal
Mahajan Sabha on 8th December 1937.***

MR. ANĀNDA MÖHÖN PÖDDĀR AND GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the welcome which you have extended to Lady Brabourne and myself and for the kindly references you have made to my term of office in Bombay. Coming as I do to a new Province I welcome the opportunity of meeting you so soon after my arrival and of hearing from you of the subjects in which you are most deeply interested.

I can sympathise with your feelings at losing, under the present Constitution, representation in the legislature that you enjoyed in former times, and have had the opportunity during my voyage from England of acquainting myself, to some extent, with the history of the matter. I was impressed by the care with which the Bengal Government and the various Committees went into this question of conflicting claims for commercial representation and can assure you that so far as the Bengal Government was concerned your case was placed squarely before the Indian Delimitation Committee upon whom the final responsibility for recommendations rested.

The framework of the legislature once having been settled, the Constitution for obvious reasons provides no quick and easy way of altering it and I can only express the hope that the worth and influence of your members will serve to secure for them through the medium of special or general constituencies a degree of representation not disproportionate to the importance of your Association.

As business men you not unnaturally stress the need for economy. You will forgive me for pointing out in passing that in this, as in many matters, my Ministers and not I are the fountain head of advice: in fact, I have learnt that they have already taken measures to inform themselves systematically as to the possibilities of constructive economy, by which I understand the possibilities of saving money in one direction with the intention of spending it more profitably in another. I shall be keenly interested in the results of this enquiry though, to express a purely personal opinion, it does seem to me a little unlikely that spectacular results can be obtained in a Province in which, to judge from the Niemeyer award, expenditure must have been severely restricted by lack of funds for several years before the present Constitution. I ought, moreover, in fairness to the past administration, to remark that the positive additions to the resources of the Province obtained by the efforts of my predecessor and his advisers under the Niemeyer award are far in excess of what I may call the negative additions effected with great difficulty by successive committees of retrenchment.

You will not, I know, expect from me any pronouncement on the formidable and interconnected problems of rural and industrial prosperity to which you have referred as confronting my Ministers—all I would say is that in the tasks that lie before them they may count on me not as an aloof spectator of their difficulties but as one who, to the limits of his ability, is anxious to understand and to help.

I thank you once again, gentlemen, for your welcome and good wishes.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Mahomedan Literary Society on 8th
December 1937.***

We, the members of the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta, on behalf of ourselves and the Mahomedan Community of Bengal, whom we have the honour to represent, beg to offer Your Excellency and The Lady Brabourne a very cordial and respectful welcome to the city of Calcutta and the Presidency of Bengal.

The Mahomedan Literary Society, which is the parent of similar organisations in India, was founded as far back as the year 1863, by the late Nawab Bahadur Abdul Lateef, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., with a view to co-ordinate the activities of public spirited and politically-minded members of the Community along well-ordered channels of progress, as also to interpret, truly and correctly, to the people, the policy of our rulers regarding administrative measures. Throughout its long career, the Society has thrown the weight of its influence on the side of advanced views and moderation, and we assure Your Excellency that our humble services will always be at Your Excellency's disposal in bringing about and maintaining the most peaceful and cordial relations, not merely between the rulers and the ruled, but also between the various communities placed under Your Excellency's charge in this Presidency.

As its name signifies, the diffusion of Islamic learning and culture and the promotion of higher

education, oriental and occidental, among the Mahomedans of Bengal, has been the chief aim of our Society, and we look back with a feeling of peculiar gratification on the splendid record of the achievements of the Society in these directions.

For the first time since the advent of British rule in India, the Mahomedans of Bengal have attained a position to which they were entitled by virtue of their superiority of numbers in the Presidency, through the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935. Not only the Mussalmans of Bengal, but the entire Muslim population of India attach very great importance to the well-known Communal Award which is embodied in that Act, and we are confident that any unreasonable attempts to get it modified, without a mutual settlement between the two great Communities in India, will not receive any sympathy or encouragement at the hands of a seasoned statesman and experienced administrator like Your Excellency.

We note with a sense of supreme satisfaction that the first Muslim Cabinet of Bengal has already established the capacity of the Muslims to govern the country with toleration and broad-mindedness, and the harmony which exists between the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, the Chief Minister, and his colleagues in the Cabinet, augurs well for the stability of the national Government in Bengal.

As Your Excellency is aware, the Muslims rightly claim to be the originators of democracy and the equality of mankind in the world. The art of government is not new to them and history bears

ample testimony to the just and efficient manner in which they have ruled over other nations in various parts of the world. For these reasons the Muslim inhabitants of this great sub-continent heartily welcome the inauguration of democracy in India, provided it means genuine and real self-government and not the domination of one nation and its culture over another. The Mussalmans hold their own religion and culture very near and dear to their hearts, and cannot tolerate any form of Government which aims at the destruction of their ideals. We are fully prepared to work in perfect unison with all the other Communities in India, which is as much our motherland as theirs, provided we are allowed to have a separate national entity of our own.

At the present moment when political conditions in the world are extremely complicated, and war clouds are threatening on all sides, we hope that the British Government, which is the greatest Muslim power in the world, will do nothing to shake the loyalty of the Mussalmans of India to the British Crown. Your Excellency is well aware of the fact that Mahomedans all the world over, regard with deep concern, the Palestine problem. We have heard with genuine satisfaction that the report of the Royal Commission on Palestine has not been approved of either by the British Cabinet or the League Assembly at Geneva. We hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to convey our feelings and sentiments, in this matter, to the British Government, and warn them of the danger to which the British Empire may be exposed by the propounding of any scheme to dismember the

holy land of Palestine and depriving the Arabs of their birthright of administering their own affairs.

We are fully conscious of the great limitations which the Government of India Act of 1935, has placed upon the powers of the Governors of the Provinces in India. We do not therefore propose to narrate, on this occasion, the wants and grievances of our Community before Your Excellency.

In conclusion we would assure Your Excellency of the loyal co-operation of all the Muslims in Bengal; and would respectfully trust that Your Excellency's regime in Bengal may be marked with an increasing period of peace, progress and prosperity in the Presidency whose fair name was unrivalled in the past and which may yet achieve in greater measure what it accomplished in the days gone by.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
of Welcome presented by the Muham-
madan Literary Society, Calcutta, on
8th December 1937.***

PRINCE AKRAM HUSAIN AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me much pleasure to meet you and the members of the Muhammadan Literary Society of Calcutta to-day and I thank you for the cordial welcome you have extended to Lady Brabourne and myself. Your Society having for its primary object the education and literary interests of the Moslem community is properly interested in measures taken by my Government to advance those interests. Believing as I do that the advancement of the component parts of its population is a responsibility of the Province as a whole, I welcome your assurance that such advancement should go hand in hand with peaceful and cordial relations between Government and the people and between the various communities that go to make up Bengal.

You will not, I know, expect me—and indeed it would be entirely beyond the scope of my responsibility—to add to or subtract anything from the Government of India Act or from the declarations of His Majesty's Government on the subject of the Communal Award. It is true that the Government of India Act places no insurmountable barrier in the way of rapprochement between various communities at any time as to the manner of their representation in the legislature; on the other hand the strictest provision has been made to ensure that such a matter could not even come before Parliament without the fullest and the most public and formal consideration

in India ; the terms of the Government of India Act itself would not countenance anything in the nature of a hasty or ill-advised attempt to modify the framework of representation upon which the legislatures have been constituted.

As to the intentions of His Majesty's Government I need only quote one passage from the many declarations made by the present Secretary of State on the subject. Speaking in the House of Lords on the 8th of July, 1935, Lord Zetland said—

“ Now let me say once more, and I hope once and for all, that not only is it not the intention of the Government to make any alteration in the Communal Award, unless it is desired by the communities themselves, but that no such alteration could be made under this clause without the specific consent of Parliament ”.

About a year later this declaration was reaffirmed in a published despatch dealing with the same subject.

Your desire to preserve intact the ideals of your own religion and culture within the framework of a democratic state is one of which full account has been taken by the framers of the Act and the Governor's Instrument of Instructions ; it is a desire which rightly may be shared by all communities to all of whom religious freedom has been guaranteed in India ; but may I say, without being misunderstood, that religion and culture are of the spirit and cannot, in the growth of democratic Government, be the sole dividing line between conflicts of interest in the body politic.

I am sensible of the concern you have expressed regarding the course of events in Palestine, and will take steps to convey your observations to the proper quarters. I have no intention to-day of entering in detail into the merits of the problem of Palestine even were I in a position to do so. I would, however, like to put one consideration before you. In a world which to-day is torn by economic strife and conflicting political ideas, adhered to and propagated with all the vehemence that in past ages has been associated with wars of religion, the British Empire still stands out as the greatest organisation of mankind within the frame-work of which such differences of interest and ideals can be adjusted without recourse to the horrors of war. The process of adjustment is not easy especially in a land that has been a battle ground between contending faiths since the early days of recorded history. Those on whom the responsibility rests can do no more than exert themselves to the utmost to arrive at a solution which will be both just and practicable.

In considering this great problem I have no doubt that the views and feelings of the Moslem population of India and the British Empire will be taken fully into account, and I, on my part, have undertaken to convey to competent authority the sentiments you have expressed.

That is all, gentlemen, that I propose to say to you in reply to your address this morning—but may I in conclusion thank you for your assurances of loyal co-operation and wholeheartedly associate myself with your hope for peace, progress and prosperity in this Province.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Town Hall
Meeting held on 10th December 1937
In connection with The King-Emperor's
Anti-Tuberculosis Fund for India.***

MR. SHERIFF, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Thank you very much Mr. Sheriff for the welcome which you have given Lady Brabourne and me and for asking me to preside at this great meeting this evening. I cannot say how pleased I am to see such a large and representative gathering. It really means that there is no need for me to say a great deal because a meeting like this speaks for itself.

It shows that the appeal has gone home to the hearts of men and women of this city and I make bold to hope that the response will be as ready in the Province as a whole. If that is so—and I believe it is—what is now required is only an organisation to convert enthusiasm into action and to make an outstanding success of the campaign in Bengal for the King-Emperor's Anti-Tuberculosis Fund.

In making her appeal for this object Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow has struck a chord that has evoked a warm and instantaneous response from public opinion of all shades and it gives me, personally, the greatest pleasure to see on this platform this evening men representative of varying schools of political thought and of widespread interests in this city and the Province.

I welcome this opportunity of meeting them on common ground and in a common cause; if the

conduct of this appeal should be the means for me to make new and wider friendships, I shall regard my participation in it as doubly rewarded; for here is a cause on which all of us, without distinction of race, creed or party can unite without misgivings or mental reservations.

Tuberculosis is a subject on which the public conscience of Bengal has begun to awaken; the Province owes a debt to those who, so long, with scanty resources at their command, have fought an uphill battle to enlighten opinion in this Province and to press home on Government and local authorities the great importance of protecting our people from the scourge of Tuberculosis. Now, under the inspiration of Her Excellency and with the warm approval of His Majesty the King-Emperor, has come an opportunity of making a great effort to press forward the campaign and arm ourselves more strongly against so dreadful and insidious an enemy.

I said that I would not speak for long because your presence here to-night is eloquent of the response which this appeal has evoked; I feel that my part in these proceedings is like that of one who comes to launch a great ship or start the machinery of some new power station, where energy is waiting to be set in motion at the touch of a button; but on occasions of that kind the work and the organisation have gone before: to-night the work and the organisation lie ahead.

You will be asked, Ladies and Gentlemen, to give your approval to this appeal with no uncertain voice: proposals will be laid before you to set up

the foundations of an organisation capable of carrying out the task that lies ahead with thoroughness, energy and enthusiasm : such an organisation, may I suggest, should be broad-based enough to command the fullest support and confidence of the public of Bengal, yet not too large to be of manageable proportions. On the members of any general committee that may be set up, and still more on those to whom they entrust the day-to-day conduct of their affairs will depend the success of this great effort : for, let me say, it must, of necessity, be a greater effort than any that has been made for many years past.

With these words I will ask you to begin your deliberations, but let me just say two things. I would like to thank on my own behalf, and I think I may say on behalf of you all, those who have planned and convened this meeting and those who, in the Press or by their private efforts, have helped to secure so full and representative a gathering.

The other thing I would like to say is this. I compared myself just now to one who sets great forces in motion by pressing a button. Let me assure you that neither I nor Lady Brabourne will be content just to press the button and leave the organisers of the Fund to do the rest without any assistance from us. Those to whom you entrust this great task may count on us both for our enthusiastic support and all the help that we can give, for we count it a privilege in these early days of our sojourn in Bengal to be entrusted with the leadership of so great and so beneficent a movement.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European
Association on 15th December 1937.***

On the occasion of your assumption of the high office of Governor of Bengal, we, the President and Council of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association, Bengal Provincial Branch, beg to offer Your Excellency and Lady Brabourne the warm and sincere greetings of the Anglo-Indian Community.

The special knowledge of the problems of government which you have acquired both as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for India and as Governor of Bombay will, we are confident, enable you soon to gain a clear insight into the needs and aspirations of the many Communities who comprise the people of Bengal. It is rarely that a new Governor has the advantage of the experience of Indian affairs that Your Excellency brings to your aid in the discharge of your responsibilities. Our confidence is strengthened by the evidence of your singular capacity in the handling of conflicting claims of the varying interests in the Bombay Presidency which served in a large measure to increase Your Excellency's popularity as a representative of the King Emperor.

Under the changed conditions consequent on the inauguration of the New Constitution and the establishment of Provincial Autonomy, many difficult and varied problems are likely to arise from time to time, but we are confident that Your Excellency

and your Ministers will always be prepared to recognise the peculiar difficulties and needs of each Community and be guided by the clear objective of ensuring the happiness and contentment of all.

From the earliest times of British administration in India, the Anglo-Indian Community has contributed materially to the development of this, the premier Province. For many years we occupied the position of middlemen between the Britisher and the peoples of the Province. Our knowledge of the local conditions was a great factor in the advancement of the trade and commerce of Bengal. Our contribution to the maintenance of peace and order, so essential for the economic prosperity of a country, cannot be overestimated.

At one time the Anglo-Indian Community formed a large element in Provincial, Civil, Judicial and Executive Services and much of the present administration may be said to be built on their pioneer work. To-day, however, we find that we are almost entirely excluded from these services. The few that are still to be found in these services are those who were recruited in the pre-reform period. This position has been brought about by the introduction of conditions of recruitment which, in practice, did not take full account of our peculiar disabilities. Unless early steps are adopted, calculated to ensure for the Anglo-Indian Community a share in these services, we apprehend that the time will soon come when we shall find ourselves completely ousted from the public services of Bengal.

We may add that it was the Anglo-Indian who was the means of spreading English education among the people of Bengal in the earlier days.

While Government from the beginning materially helped the education of the Indian Communities, they paid scant attention to the improvement of Anglo-Indian education beyond a certain standard. Thus it is that out of 67 institutions which impart education to the Anglo-Indian Community in Bengal, only three are maintained by Government; the remaining institutions are maintained, as of old, by private philanthropic and religious bodies with the aid of grants from Government and the high school fees paid by Anglo-Indian parents. Notwithstanding the pre-eminent position we occupied in the past as imparters of English education, to-day, we find that, while other Indian Communities are in a position to do without teachers from outside the country, the Anglo-Indian Community has to bear the unnecessarily high cost of headmasters and teachers from abroad. The moulding of the character of nearly 12,000 Anglo-Indian pupils receiving instruction in these institutions are left almost entirely to persons who have little knowledge of the ideals, needs and aspirations of the Community. Anglo-Indian parents can ill afford to meet the disproportionately high scale of school fees hitherto borne by them, owing to the allround reduction in the earning capacity of the Community, consequent on the introduction of the policy of "no discrimination" in matters of remuneration. We are duly appreciative of the grants-in-aid provided by the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act, but the changed conditions require not only a radical alteration in the policy of these schools, but an early readjustment of their

costs of administration to suit the means of Anglo-Indian parents. Your Excellency's personal influence and help in these matters will be of undoubted assistance to the Community.

We have already pointed out the extent of Anglo-India's contribution to the trade of Bengal, particularly in the past, when they served as useful intermediaries between the indigenous trader and the English. Even to-day the Anglo-Indian assistants in trades and mercantile firms play an important part in this direction. The regulation of their hours of work, holidays and suitable wages and terms are matters which, we have every confidence, will receive Your Excellency's attention as head of the Government.

The women of the Anglo-Indian Community have, in the words of the Indian Statutory Commission, "given of their best to the tending of the sick of all races and have thus done something towards meeting one of the foremost and urgent needs of Indian society." We have reason to apprehend that even here the claims of the Community are likely to be overlooked on political and racial grounds.

By reason of the restriction in the opportunities hitherto open to the Community in the various Government services, unemployment among the Anglo-Indian youth is daily becoming more and more acute. The widespread and prolonged trade depression and competition from other numerically stronger Indian Communities have tended to reduce the employment available to the Anglo-Indian Community in all directions. We pray that under Your Excellency's guidance, the Government will

afford relief to the Community by initiating industrial and agricultural undertakings in order to absorb a certain proportion of the youth of the Community in avenues hitherto unexplored by us.

With the development of popular Government, the many new and difficult problems that arise are likely to place the administration under a severe strain and tax the patience, skill and energy of the Government. Much depends on the one who is at the helm of affairs and Your Excellency has already shown what may be accomplished with tact and understanding. We have no doubt that, whatever party be in power, Your Excellency will always use your influence with your Ministers to turn a ready ear to the needs of the smaller Communities, understand the peculiar difficulties of each and, as far as possible, remove the disabilities under which they labour. The doubts and apprehensions that exist in the hearts of the minorities will be removed by the sense of justice and equity that may guide the actions of the larger Communities towards the smaller and we may depend upon Your Excellency to use every endeavour to this end. Developing ideas and the march of events bring in their train many reforms, political, social, economic. There are many and pressing problems of agriculture, industry and education in this Province that need to be tackled with energy, foresight and courage. In their solution the path of good government lies in the advantage of all and the disadvantage of none which, while easy of statement, often leaves much to be desired in the reconciliation of conflicting interests.

In conclusion, we express on behalf of the Anglo-Indian Community in Bengal our heartfelt wishes for the health and happiness of Your Excellency and Lady Brabourne and the confident hope that Your Excellency's tenure of office as Governor of Bengal will be attended with complete success. In the discharge of your functions as the representative of the King Emperor in the best interests of the Communities and other interests committed to Your Excellency's charge, Your Excellency may rely upon us to uphold law and order, to labour for friendly relations between the various Communities and to assist, as far as lies in our power, without prejudice to our own interests, the reconciliation of conflicting claims.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
Welcome presented by the Anglo-Indian
and Domiciled European Association on
15th December 1937.***

MR. WALLACE AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF
THE ANGLO-INDIAN AND DOMICILED EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION,

Before I attempt to reply to the varied questions that your address has raised may I thank you, briefly but none the less sincerely, for the warm welcome you have extended to Lady Brabourne and myself on behalf of the Community that your Association represents.

In the compass of your address this morning you have presented a comprehensive review of the major topics that are exercising the minds of your Community at this stage of Constitutional transition and evolution. The subjects to which you have referred relate to the activities of several departments of my Government—activities for which the primary responsibility rests on my Ministers. I am, I agree, personally concerned by virtue of my special responsibility for the safe-guarding of the legitimate interests of minorities, among whom your Community is one that has a very special claim to consideration. Nevertheless, I need hardly urge upon you, whose leaders have made so close a study of political developments affecting your interests, the importance of looking in the first place to responsible Ministers for due and just consideration of your legitimate claims.

Following that principle myself I have, before replying to your address, obtained the views of Ministers on these particular subjects and, having full regard to my own responsibilities, I find myself in agreement with them.

It may clarify my own position if I point out that as regards the question of your representation in the public services my responsibilities as Governor have been defined with some precision in the Instrument of Instructions issued to me by His Majesty. That Instrument requires the Governor to secure a due proportion of appointments in His Majesty's services to the several communities, and it adds these words—"So far as there may be in his Province at the date of the issue of these Our Instructions an accepted policy in this regard, he shall be guided thereby, unless he is fully satisfied that modification of that policy is essential in the interests of the communities affected or of the welfare of the public".

Now ladies and gentlemen there was an accepted policy as regards the reservation of appointments for minority communities in this Province on the relevant date: you will, I think, recall that the policy of the Central Government was adopted after full consideration by the Government of India and the Secretary of State of representations in which your president played a leading part: the policy of the Provincial Government applied similar principles to different conditions; but ~~no~~ variation has been made since then to the prejudice of the Anglo-Indian Community—nor, I may assure you is any such variation contemplated.

It is true that the method of recruitment to the Provincial Services has changed since the days when your Community enjoyed a larger actual representation than at present: such change was inevitable with the spread of education and the intensified competition for Government employment in the Province. The real question, I suggest, is how far the educational system of your Community is adapted to the requirements of candidates for competitive examinations; it is to the educational aspect of the problem that your attention is rightly directed.

In the matter of education your Community has received, by Section 83 of the Government of India Act, the financial guarantee for which you so long pressed your case before the Secretary of State, and I am informed that grants in this Province during the present financial year have in fact shown an increase on those of the preceding year. I have heard with real sympathy of the hardships and sacrifices entailed on parents during the recent years of depression and I fully agree that it is of great importance to your Community that the available funds shall be expended to the best advantage having regard to the special requirements of European and Anglo-Indian schools. I am assured by my advisers that this question is receiving their careful attention and I will take steps at greater leisure to acquaint myself personally with the issues involved. .

I associate myself fully with the appreciation which the Minister in charge of the Medical Department has expressed to me of the valuable services rendered by your Community in providing

nurses for the Government Hospitals under his charge. I gather that the apprehensions to which you refer may have arisen from a legitimate and, I think, necessary endeavour to encourage suitable Indian women to take up the profession of nursing: if so, you may rest assured that there is no intention of overlooking the claims of your Community in this branch of service and that you may expect to play a very important part in this sphere of activity for a long time to come.

The question of conditions of service of Anglo-Indian assistants in trade and mercantile firms is, I am assured, engaging the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Labour who has expressed a hope that concrete proposals may be ready in the course of the coming year.

It has not hitherto been part of the policy of my Government to initiate agricultural or industrial undertakings: it is however the intention of the Minister of Agriculture and Industries to expand and improve technical and vocational education, both in agriculture and industries, and he has expressed his readiness to give necessary consideration to the special needs of your Community in that connection.

I fear, ladies and gentlemen, that I have spoken to you at some length and you may perhaps feel that I have added little to what the several Ministers of my Government, each in his own Department, has or could have already told you: that indeed is true, but, as I indicated at the outset, my responsibility for the legitimate interests of minorities does not abrogate the responsibility of

my Ministers for those same interests. Nevertheless, I welcome the opportunity you have afforded me to acquaint myself with your particular problems in the early days of my Governorship.

I would, in conclusion, assure you of my real respect for your loyalty, my appreciation of the services of your Community to India, and my abiding sympathy with your efforts to promote the true welfare and progress of your Community under changing conditions.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Indian Association on 15th December
1937.***

Permit us to extend to Your Excellency and Lady Brabourne a cordial welcome on the occasion of the assumption by you of the high office of Governor of this Province.

The Government of India Act of 1935 has established a new order of things in the Indian Provinces. There is a widespread feeling that the system that has been established is short of what was expected, and that there is much in the framework that has been set up that requires remodelling. But this Association has never dissociated itself from the existing system of administration, but has held the view that the best way to achieve progress and welfare is to work on peaceful and constitutional lines, so that the end in view may be attained on the basis of mutual amity and understanding.

The Government of India Act of 1919 with its peculiar feature of dyarchy in the Provinces did not commend itself to a large section of the people of this Province. But those that hold the same political opinions as this Association helped in the working of the Constitution established in 1919 in spite of what they considered to be its shortcomings.

It was widely expected that the next constitutional advance would lead the people of this country to what is known as Dominion Status, and the Government of India Act, 1935, which continued this country in her former status, caused keen and

widespread disappointment. There are other features of the Act of 1935, such as the division of the electorates into watertight compartments on the basis of classes and creeds, the legislative powers of the Governor and of the Governor-General, the restraint upon fiscal and economic powers and the peculiar system intended for the Central Government, are matters about which the people will not cease to press their demands. But it is the endeavour of this Association, so far as lies in its power, to see that such agitation is conducted on a constitutional basis.

The New Constitution places the Governor to a great extent outside the sphere of everyday administration. Your Excellency will have the opportunity of judging the affairs of this Province from the position of detachment that you occupy. Though not taking an active part in the work of administration, Your Excellency's advice will be of great value to those that are entrusted with the work. Under the system that has been established, there may occasionally be a tendency in legislative and administrative measures for the interests of certain classes and communities to have preponderance over those of others. The people of this Province are confident that Your Excellency will help in the scales being held even, so that an atmosphere may be brought about when the antipathies that now exist will gradually disappear and with the growth of common endeavour for general welfare, people will cease to think in terms of classes and creeds.

Under the new system Your Excellency will be a strong link between the Centre and this Province and between this Province and other Provinces.

In the mutual interaction between the Federal Centre and the Province Your Excellency's help will be of great potency in establishing that spirit of co-operation which is so necessary when the Federal Centre is established.

There is another matter to which we ask leave to call attention. In the other Provinces of India the important minorities have been given special representation and weightage. In Bengal such special representation and weightage have not been allowed to the Hindu Community which is the most important minority. In consequence there is a keen sense of grievance. It is necessary in the interests of the people in general that no particular section should be encouraged in the feeling that it enjoys some special privileges over others.

Your Excellency's reputation for sympathy and statesmanship has preceded you to this Province. We wish Your Excellency a successful and happy term of office. We earnestly hope and trust that when you lay down the reins of your exalted office in this Province the strifes between classes and creeds which tend to occupy much of the time and attention of the legislature and of the administration will disappear and a spirit will develop, so that with your valuable advice and assistance this Province will progress morally and materially and assume its proper place in the Indian Federation, with all classes, creeds and races who are associated with this Province working jointly for the common welfare.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
Welcome presented by the Indian
Association on 15th December 1937.***

MR. CHAUDHURI AND MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN
ASSOCIATION,

I have listened with deep interest to your concise and thought-provoking address this morning and before I attempt to express my own ideas on some of the subjects that you have mentioned, I would like to thank you for the kind welcome you have extended to Lady Brabourne and myself and for the good wishes you have expressed for the success of my term of office in Bengal.

Your Association represents, I understand, professional rather than purely propertied interests and; in more than half a century of its life time, has witnessed great and successive changes in the social and political history of Bengal. The class which you represent has, I am sure, made no negligible contribution to the evolution of social and political thought in this Province and I well know that your Association availed itself fully of every opportunity to put forward and press its views during the years when the present Constitution of India was on the anvil. That the eventual solution of a problem so complex should contain features not in accordance with your views was, in the nature of things, inevitable, and for this reason I welcome the more your assurance that you will continue, as in the past, while pressing your views with emphasis, to follow the peaceful and constitutional line. I believe, and in saying this I am speaking not without experience, that

the framework of the present Constitution will be found in practice to be much more ample than it at first appears. I cannot help thinking that the passage of time will show how differently a Constitution of this nature may develop in different Provinces under varying circumstances. In that connection, and with particular reference to the term Dominion Status, I would suggest that it is possible to attach too much importance to the particular term by which the Constitution of India is described. After all, the position that a country holds in the world will, in the end, be determined by the intrinsic value of its resources, both moral and material, and by the degree to which ~~these~~ resources can be developed and organised by its internal Government. If you will believe, as I sincerely believe, that the Constitution was designed to be worked in the interests of India, to permit the Provinces to carry their full weight in the Federation and the Federation to grow organically into a Government that will command the confidence of the whole of India, you need not, I think, be apprehensive as to the extent to which India under such a Constitution would carry her full weight in the Councils of the British Empire and of the world.

To turn now to matters nearer home; your views on the subject of separate Electorates were consistently and ably put forward during the long discussions that preceded the enactment of the Government of India Act—and no doubt it was in consideration of such views that provision was made in the Act to permit of a modification of the Electoral arrangements, should such a modification

commend itself, by agreement, to the communities affected.

It was, I would remind you, only when prolonged discussions failed to produce an agreement that the existing system embodied in the Communal Award was adopted by His Majesty's Government.

The problem that now lies before you and your fellow countrymen in Bengal is to find a way so to work the present system of representation as to get the best out of it in the interests of the Province as a whole: in such a way lies the most hopeful prospect of removing the bitterness and perhaps even diminishing the importance of communal representation. It would obviously be presumptuous on my part after so short an acquaintance with the affairs of Bengal even to imply that I was in a position to point the way to any ready solution; but this problem has already come before me in various aspects and this at any rate seems to me clear—that whatever be the rights or wrongs of the matter, one cannot ignore the fact that the Muslim Community in Bengal feels that it has laboured under grave disadvantages and feels that it is the business of a democratic Constitution to remedy them.

If there is any basis for such a feeling surely it is one that has to be faced in a spirit of realism: if there are in fact matters of substance that affect purely what I may call the communal aspect of the question—if, I say, there are such matters, is it possible that there may be potentialities yet unexplored in the present system of representation? Is it not possible that the political leaders placed in

power by a system of communal representation, if trusted by their respective communities to deal with matters of a communal nature could adjust such matters between themselves as equals, secure in the knowledge that whatever their political views, they enjoyed, so far as purely communal interests were concerned, both the trust of their own community and the recognition of the other? Is it too much to hope that men in such a position would also be in a position to work in common for the wider interests of the Province as a whole in which community plays a less conspicuous part? Is it possible that in some such development as this might be found an answer to the misgivings that underlie your address to-day? You gentlemen represent a class and a community that is rich in talents and in professional and political experience; a community with such ability and antecedents, facing political problems in a spirit of realism and taking its stand on principle even at the expense of its immediate interests, might well find that its influence in the long run would not be measured merely by the weight of its numbers.

I do not pretend to instruct—still less to dogmatise, but I believe that you deplore, no less than I do, the embittered spirit of controversy that seeks to solve baffling problems by sheer propaganda and few things could be of greater encouragement to me in the tasks that lie ahead than the assurance that your influence will always be exerted in the cause of peace and mutual amity. For this assurance, gentlemen, as well as for your personal good wishes to myself I thank you most sincerely.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Indian Chamber of Commerce on 15th
December 1937.***

It gives us, the Members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, great pleasure to-day to accord to Your Excellency and the Lady Brabourne a very cordial welcome to this great city as Governor of this Province. We greatly value this opportunity of meeting Your Excellency on the assumption of your high office.

The Province of Bengal is unique in many respects and its Governorship, a delicate and difficult task. On the one hand there is the great problem of the amelioration of the condition of a vast mass of agricultural and rural population and on the other the equally, if not more, important and difficult problems which a great modern industrial and commercial centre presents. The city of Calcutta is the second largest city of the Empire and is one of the chief ports of this great land, through which a substantial portion of the export and import trade of the country passes. The government of such a Province is bound to be a very delicate task. It is true that due to the recent constitutional changes and the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy the constitutional position of Your Excellency as Governor is greatly altered. We realise that primarily now, it is the Ministry who is responsible for most of the acts of Government, but still the position which the Head of a Province occupies is such that he can influence the destinies of the Province to a great extent.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction to us that Your Excellency brings to bear on this great task not only theoretical knowledge and training but also a fresh practical experience gained during the course of Your Excellency's tenure of office as the Governor of Bombay. The varied experience which Your Excellency has gained, first as the actual administrator of that Presidency under the old Government of India Act, and then, as its constitutional head working with the help of a Ministry responsible to the legislature of the Province, will, we are confident, be of great benefit to this Province.

When Your Excellency laid down the reins of Governorship of the Presidency of Bombay in September last, you were pleased to lay stress on the great necessity of industrial and communal peace. Bengal also presents a similar set of problems. Earlier this year, this Province experienced a series of serious industrial disputes and strikes. It will be admitted on all hands that industrial peace is the *sine qua non* of economic progress. Your Excellency has had practical experience of dealing with these problems and we have every confidence that this experience together with the weight and influence of the high position of Your Excellency will be a great factor in maintaining industrial peace in this Province.

Communal disharmony is still a greater evil, because its effects are more widely distributed. Unfortunately for this Province this problem is not wholly absent here. With the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy and the advent of responsible Ministries, this question has assumed even greater

importance. The part which Your Excellency played at the time of a great political crisis immediately following the introduction of Provincial Autonomy and in preparing the ground for the acceptance of office by the majority party in the Presidency of Bombay encourages us to hope that Your Excellency will spare no efforts to remove the causes of communal differences in this Province and will use your influence and high office in promoting more cordial relations between the communities.

It is a happy augury that Your Excellency has assumed the reins of this Province at a time of comparative peace. We have every confidence that Your Excellency's advice in matters of state and public affairs will be a great help and guidance to the Ministry whoever may be in power.

May we again offer Your Excellency and the Lady Brabourne our heartiest welcome to this Province and express our fervent hopes that Your Excellency's regime will be marked with an all-round development of this Province and when the time comes for Your Excellency to lay down the reins of your office, Bengal will have made considerable progress in all directions, so that your tenure of office may ever be remembered with gratitude.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
of Welcome presented by the Indian
Chamber of Commerce on 15th
December 1937.***

MR. SHAH AND GENTLEMEN OF THE INDIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

It has given me much pleasure to meet you to-day on an occasion such as this, which offers both to you and myself an opportunity of making each other's acquaintance and exchanging our views, in however circumscribed a manner, on matters which are of concern to us all.

May I thank you for the kind and courteous manner in which you have expressed your welcome to Lady Brabourne and myself and for the generous references you have made to my period of office in the Governorship of Bombay. I have come to the charge of a Province widely different from that which I left a few months ago—but I can assure you that I shall find its affairs no less engrossing and that I shall do my part, to the utmost of my ability, in promoting the welfare of Bengal.

I have already had occasion to make public reference to the question of labour problems in general and there is little, I think, that you would expect me, in these early days, to add in detail. As I said, some days ago, the presence in the legislature of the elected representatives of labour is a factor which is bound to exert a potent influence under the new regime. It demands that Government and

employers should have a clear conception of the course they intend to pursue and should state it in terms that the labour electorates can understand.

The policy of my Ministry is, briefly, to encourage the formation of constitutional Trade Unions, to pursue in co-operation with them and with employers a consistent policy of ameliorating the conditions of the labouring classes, and to establish permanent machinery for the avoidance of serious industrial disputes and all the loss that such disputes entail both to industry and labour. That is a policy which I can wholeheartedly support and commend, not only as a matter of constitutional duty but also as a matter of personal experience and inclination.

There is no doubt, I fear, that agitation of a communist or quasi-communist character among the labouring classes does exist, and the Government of Bengal is not the only Government that is confronted with this problem: it is to be hoped that as labour comes to realise how much its welfare is bound up with the prosperity of industry, and how much can be obtained by constitutional means, the appeal to methods that must involve violence and suffering will lose much of its force. I am speaking with the full concurrence of my Government in saying that they realise the necessity of keeping a close watch on activities that involve the danger of violence or of setting class against class: they fully accept their responsibility for the protection of life and property and for safeguarding the community at large against the consequences of the exploitation of labour for ulterior purposes.

Nobody in my position—even in the short time that I have spent in Bengal—could fail to be impressed by the importance that attaches to the relationships between the two major Communities and the reaction of those relationships on the politics and administration of Bengal.

I can propound no sovereign remedy : I can only say that I shall try my best, in the course of personal contact with those who see this problem from different angles, to appreciate its underlying causes, for my only desire is to understand and to help.

In conclusion, gentlemen, may I say how deeply sensible I am of the confidence that you have been good enough to express in myself and how wholeheartedly I associate myself with your hopes for a period of all round development in this Province.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Central National Muhammadan Association
on 15th December 1937.***

On behalf of the Central National Muhammadan Association, the oldest Moslem political organisation in India, founded in the year 1877 by the late Right Hon'ble Syed Amir Ali, P.C., which has for the last sixty-one years served, by all constitutional and legitimate means, the cause of the country in general and the Moslem community in particular which it seeks to represent, we extend to Your Excellency and Lady Brabourne a most cordial and respectful welcome on your arrival in this the second city of the British Empire of which we are so justly proud and on the assumption by Your Excellency of the exalted office of the Governor of this Presidency.

Bengal, we may be permitted to point out, has always been, and still continues to be, a difficult province to administer. The new Indian Constitution, which has inaugurated provincial autonomy in Bengal as in other sister provinces in India, has in no way contributed, for the time being at any rate, either to solve the difficulty or to render the task easier by any means. The initiative for policy has undoubtedly devolved on the Provincial Ministers and the responsibility of Governors has no doubt been circumscribed within comparatively narrow limits. But we in Bengal are unfortunately still some way off from that sense of true national unity and perspective which is the surest foundation for a responsible and democratic constitution. The

Moslem majority in the main—poor, illiterate, dumb and practically disorganised—are face to face with the less numerous but well educated, better-off, vocal and organised Hindu elements with well-marked cleavages in religious systems, social usages, historic traditions and cultural heritages. Practical realism as a national trait is all but non-existent and engulfed in the wave, of emotional idealism which makes the Bengalee so unintelligible to a matter-of-fact European. The revolutionary patriot still seems to exercise a charm which is beyond the ken of the exponent of evolutionary progress. The soundness of the system of land tenure, as embodied in the Permanent Settlement, is being called into question and requires consideration. The Bengalee is in danger of becoming decadent like the river system of Bengal and the ravages of preventable diseases are taking an inconceivable toll of human life and vitality. A literary education leading to middle-class unemployment and agricultural indebtedness which is eating into the vitals of a population predominantly agricultural along with havoc wrought by malaria have turned smiling country-side into deserted and lifeless villages. Communal differences and communistic preachings are responsible for inroads into the realms of law and order with dangerous and deadly repercussions. These are only some of the conditions of the problem of Government in Bengal which confront Your Excellency, and which may impinge so much and with such deadly effect on matters within Your Excellency's province that in guiding the destinies of autonomous Bengal during the next five years there will be ample scope for the

exercise by Your Excellency of that wise sagacity and broadminded statesmanship which made your administration of the gateway of India so conspicuous a success in the past.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our gratification that for the first time an Indian in the person of His Highness the Aga Khan was elected President of the League of Nations Assembly. This is a signal honour done to India; and may we indulge the hope that under the wise guidance of His Highness, who is in close touch with the Moslem point of view, the solution of the vexed Palestine problem, which is creating discontent and tension in Moslem minds, may be found to the satisfaction of the Moslem world? If a uniform system of Self-Government on a democratic basis can be successfully established in India with its varied races, clashing religious and cultural ideas and different historic heritages, we fail to see why a similar administration cannot be set up on a democratic basis in Palestine where the Arabs and the Jews have close racial and cultural affinities and have lived together as friendly neighbours from time immemorial.

In conclusion, we pray that Your Excellency and Lady Brabourne may enjoy health and strength, that your stay in our midst may be happy and pleasant and your administration of Bengal may succeed to the advantage of both Bengal and Britain.

His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Central National Muhammadan Association on 15th December 1937.

SIR ABDUL HALIM GHUZNAVI AND MEMBERS OF THE
CENTRAL NATIONAL MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION,

I would like, first of all, on behalf of Lady Brabourne and myself to express our very sincere thanks for the welcome you have extended to us this morning. I can assure you, gentlemen, that even a brief acquaintance with the duties of my office in Bengal has been sufficient to impress upon me the momentous nature of the problems both administrative and political with which the Province is faced.

It is true that the statutory responsibilities of a Governor are defined and circumscribed by the Government of India Act and his Instrument of Instructions. Though he must always and at all times keep those responsibilities in view, the extent to which he is called upon to exercise them must depend on factors which only to a very limited degree can be said to be within his control. It may, however, be possible for a Governor, by his personal efforts, to aid in preventing or forestalling the occurrence of circumstances in which he would be called upon to act in the discharge of his own responsibilities. Personally speaking, it is to that end that I hope it will be possible, in the fullest co-operation with my Government, to direct my primary attention.

Both in the course of addresses presented by representative bodies and in the press, I have been impressed by the general realisation of the gravity and complexity of the problems which confront the Province at this new stage of its political history; I have, however, observed, not without anxiety and misgivings, a tendency at times to regard the wider problems of Bengal as inseparable from considerations of communal interests. Naturally enough the broadening of the franchise, and the consequent alteration in the balance of political power, have brought into prominence the demands and aspirations of classes whose influence upon the legislature has been greatly increased—and that in itself constitutes an entirely new problem. It may be that in certain walks of life this problem presents itself as largely a Moslem problem. But the account you have given of the difficulties of the Province shows that there are great and essential tasks to be undertaken upon the accomplishment of which depends the welfare not of this or that community but of the Province as a whole. Revolutionary methods whether employed in the name of patriotism or in attempting to adjust the relations between class and class in the internal affairs of the country are a threat to peaceful and ordered progress of any community or class : questions such as rural health or practical education have a significance transcending the interests of this or that class of society ; the land system of a country, affecting as it does the whole economic structure of rural society is a problem which may, by accident, have its communal aspects :

but it is one in the solution of which considerations of community cannot be the sole or perhaps even the primary consideration. Do not, I beg you, misunderstand me if I speak on this subject in reply to your address. Do not think that in addressing my remarks to you I am implying, in any way, that the members of your Association or the community which you represent is responsible for the tendency to which I have referred or could by itself effectively check such a tendency. I have spoken of this matter as I shall speak of it to others also, because your address this morning gives me a convenient opportunity of reaching a wider public. You will agree with me in saying that Bengal is in need of a sustained effort to think of policies apart from personalities; its difficulties can only be enhanced if problems that call for earnest and dispassionate consideration are presented mainly in the light of embittered and controversial propaganda.

As representatives of Moslems in Bengal you have, not unnaturally, expressed your concern on the subject of Palestine. I need not, I think, repeat what I said last week to your fellow Moslems of the Muhammadan 'Literary Society on this subject, beyond saying that I will transmit to competent authority the views that you too have expressed. I am in no position, gentlemen, to forecast what scheme of administration may eventually be adopted for that troubled territory. Partition is, in any country, a drastic remedy: the experience of the British Empire as well as that of Europe is by itself sufficient guarantee that such a step would not lightly be adopted; but if the most patient and

exhaustive consideration of the actual difficulties should lead to the conclusion that the setting up of separate administrations is inevitable, I trust that you and those whom you represent will judge of the proposals not in haste but in that same spirit of practical realism that you have commended to Bengal.

In conclusion, gentlemen, may I thank you, once again, ~~for your~~ courtesy to Lady Brabourne and myself personally and for your good wishes for the successful discharge of the responsibilities of my Governorship.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
Bengal Landholders Association on 15th
December 1937.***

We deem it a valued privilege and honour to be able to present this humble address of welcome to Your Excellency on the assumption of reins of Government of our Presidency by Your Lordship.

We, representing varied landed interests in the Province, have great pleasure in extending to you our sincerest loyalty and co-operation in your arduous task in Bengal.

We have already had encouraging foretaste of Your Excellency's high-mindedness and wisdom and fullest sympathy with the desires and aspirations of our countrymen in the manner in which you have helped to steer the vessel of State in the sister Presidency of Bombay. What will be a serious loss to Bombay, will be a great gain to Bengal.

In consequence of the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy, Your Lordship's experienced guidance and wise leadership will be all the more necessary for the Ministry of Bengal and her people.

The zemindars are quite rightly treated as natural leaders of the people. And this great position of importance and prestige which they have been enjoying from time immemorial has substantially helped them to be the steadfast champions of ordered Government and progressive peace in the country. The zemindars have been secured in their position so long by reason of Permanent Settlement,

which has proved to them a charter of their rights and privileges and has enabled them to carry on effective work of rural amelioration for a very long time. We regard it as unfortunate that there has been an ill-advised movement for the abolition of the Permanent Settlement and we are very sorry to note that some of our countrymen have lent their weight to this agitation, quite oblivious of the dire consequences which will result from such a course.

We beg to call upon Your Excellency to make an emphatic pronouncement, so that all disquieting rumours may be set at rest and we may be reassured of our position.

In conclusion, we pray to God that He may bestow on Your Lordship and the Lady Brabourne His choicest blessings.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
Welcome presented by the Bengal
Landholders' Association on 15th
December 1937.***

MAHARAJADHIRAJA AND GENTLEMEN OF THE BENGAL
LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION,

I am very pleased to see you here to-day and I much appreciate the courtesy and friendliness of your welcome to Lady Brabourne and myself and your kind references to my Governorship in Bombay. I value greatly your assurances of loyalty and co-operation in a task of which, believe me, I do not under-rate the magnitude.

Not unnaturally your address reflects the matter that is uppermost in your minds: for though my acquaintance with the affairs of Bengal is as yet brief, I realise that for nearly a century and a half the Permanent Settlement has underlain the structure of rural Bengal and is the foundation upon which the position of the Zemindars of Bengal has been built up. When, however, you ask me to make an emphatic pronouncement on the subject of movements for its abolition, I in turn must ask you to recognise that my powers and responsibilities as regards the Permanent Settlement are precisely defined by the Government of India Act and the Instrument of Instructions to the Governor.

It is within the competence of the Houses of the Bengal Legislature to consider and pass legislation that would alter the character of the Permanent

Settlement. On the other hand, the Governor is required, if such legislation is passed, to reserve it for the consideration of the Governor-General, who in turn is required to reserve it for the consideration of His Majesty. His Excellency the Viceroy has already assured you that there need be no fear of a Governor-General dealing perfunctorily with any question that might come before him in that connection. It is perhaps hardly necessary to add that there would also be no fear of perfunctoriness on my part in a matter of this kind; but, beyond that, as His Excellency the Viceroy has said, no further assurance is possible.

I should, however, regard it as a misfortune to the development of responsible Government in Bengal if the complicated issues that must of necessity arise on any question of this nature could not be settled save at the expense of carrying an embittered controversy beyond the confines of the Province for decision by higher constitutional authority; if such a situation eventually came to pass, it would be doubly unfortunate if those upon whom the responsibility for decision rested were left to depend entirely on representations of the case which, however honest, would of necessity be partisan. It is for this reason that I welcome the decision of my Government to appoint a Commission of Enquiry, the personnel of which will be designed to ensure that the Commission shall be rich in experience as well as representative. In the selection of a Chairman my distinguished predecessor took a close personal interest and I can assure you that no pains will be spared to secure the services of a man whose ability and standing

should be an adequate guarantee, to all interests concerned, of competence and complete impartiality and open-mindedness in approaching the momentous and complicated questions that this Commission will be called upon to face. It is my hope that as the fruit of its labours the legislature and the people of Bengal and all those who may be called upon to take responsibility for decisions of such vital importance will be better equipped to arrive at a true understanding of the land problems of the Province and reach a just and progressive solution.

That, gentlemen, concludes what I have to say to you this morning in reply to the particular questions on which you have asked me to make a definite statement.

I would, however, like to say how much I have welcomed this opportunity of meeting you. Some of you are now already known to me and, in the course of my future travels in the Province, I shall look forward to meeting many of you again, individually, in your own districts and hearing more of the conditions in the rural areas with which your interests are so intimately associated.

***Address of Welcome presented by the
European Association (Bengal Branches)
on 18th December 1937.***

On behalf of the British community in this Province, we desire to offer to you our welcome on your assumption of the high office of Governor of Bengal.

The European Association was formed in Calcutta in the year 1883 with the object of protecting the legitimate interests of the British community in India, an object which remains its primary aim.

Since its formation, the organisation of the Association has spread throughout all the Provinces of British India, though the original Branch in Calcutta and its sister Branches in the Province of Bengal continue to furnish the majority of its total membership.

Your Excellency comes to a Province which, while it cannot claim to have been the earliest centre in which British commerce with India was established, can claim to be that in which that commerce has been more widely developed and has achieved more for the prosperity of the people than in any other Province. The establishment and development of the great industries for which Bengal is famous—of jute, tea and coal—all, with many others, are the outcome of the genius and energy of Britons who have lived and worked in this Province.

Equally to British enterprise is due the development of communications in Bengal, both by rail and inland waterways, as also the pre-eminence of Calcutta as the first seaport of India, and the second city in the British Empire.

It is inevitable, therefore, that in this Province should be found the strongest organisation of British political opinion, an organisation represented by the Branches of the European Association on whose behalf we now have the honour of addressing you.

It is fitting and proper, also, that in the Legislature of this Province the British community is represented by a body of men of influence and numbers sufficient to ensure that its opinion should be adequately voiced and should receive due consideration in all matters affecting enterprises and interests on the preservation of which depends to so great an extent the economic welfare of the people of Bengal.

That welfare both depends upon and is essential to the commercial and industrial prosperity of the Province, and must therefore—even should motives of self-interest alone prevail—be the chief consideration of those controlling the undertakings on which such prosperity is based.

It is therefore no formal or empty pledge which the British community in Bengal has publicly given; that it will wholeheartedly support the Government of the Province under the Constitution which has this year been put into operation, without regard to the political creed of the party from which the Ministry of such Government may

be drawn, in all measures which are reasonably and justly framed for the social, educational or economic advancement of the people of Bengal. But it is in like measure no idle declaration which that community has also made; that it will, to the utmost of its power, resist all measures, legislative or administrative, which may unjustly infringe the lawful rights of any class or community in the Province, create discrimination between its citizens on grounds of caste, colour, nationality or creed, or cause oppression to any minority.

In common with all other loyal citizens in Bengal, the British community is, as it has always shewn itself, determined to support your Excellency's Government by every means in its power in the preservation of public order in this Province: to do its utmost to ensure that no man shall live in fear of attack upon his person or his property.

Your Excellency is well aware that this Province has in past years suffered much from the lawless activities of terrorists, to the resolute suppression of which Bengal owes so great a debt to Your Excellency's predecessor in office.

The human tools of those responsible for the direction of such activities have largely been young men of a not inconsiderable degree of education, drawn in many cases from loyal and decent families.

The problem of the release from imprisonment and the re-establishment in life of these misguided men has recently exercised and must continue to exercise the anxious consideration of your Excellency's Government.

We would urge upon your Excellency that your Government, in its proper and natural anxiety to set at liberty those detenus who have sincerely abandoned their belief in the efficacy of violence as a political weapon, should not be persuaded, on grounds of political expediency or sentiment, to release persons convicted by a Court of Justice who are now serving their sentences passed upon them or individuals who will become again a menace to the tranquillity of the Province.

We would also urge on your Excellency that those special legislative enactments designed to prevent recrudescence of the terrorist movement and to frustrate the fruition of other, not less serious, subversive activities should remain in force. Their provisions do not threaten or conflict with the liberty of law-abiding citizens, for whose protection they were framed. The too-hasty suspension of their operation on a previous occasion proved costly in the lives of loyal servants of the State. We should be failing in our duty, as representatives of the British community throughout Bengal against which the murderous activities of terrorists have in the past been largely directed, if we did not bring plainly to Your Excellency's notice the view which the community holds regarding this grave problem.

We believe that Your Excellency is also fully alive to the more insidious and equally dangerous activities of those who would subvert the social structure of India with a view to the realisation of that discredited illusion, the Communist state.

We have reason to apprehend that the increasing vigilance of Your Excellency's Government is

necessary if those activities are to be prevented from disturbing the social and economic progress of this Province.

Any steps which Your Excellency's Government may deem expedient to check these activities will, Your Excellency may rest assured, receive the vigorous support, not only of the community which we represent, but of all responsible citizens in the Province.

We further desire respectfully to draw Your Excellency's attention to the recent labour troubles in this Province. While it is incontestable that the improvement of the conditions of labour must command the sympathy and active assistance of all, it is equally both the duty and the interest of all to ensure that labour is not exploited by political agitators for their own ends, an exploitation which causes not only dislocation of the commercial and industrial activities of the community at large, but grievous suffering to the dupes of such dishonest agitators. It is symptomatic of the recent troubles that agitation has been largely directed to the disturbance of relations between employers and labour in undertakings in which the welfare of the workers has received the most sympathetic and liberal consideration.

In such circumstances, there is ample ground for our apprehension that political ends rather than the improvement of the conditions of labour are the prime reason for the fomenting of strikes which have done much adversely to affect the prosperity of the Province and to threaten public tranquillity.

In combatting such agitation, inimical as it is to the real welfare of labour, whether by administrative action to enforce the preservation of the

public order which it threatens, or by the enactment of legislation to protect labour from such dishonest promoters of trouble, your Excellency's Government may confidently rely upon the active co-operation of the British community. Your Excellency will find that the responsibility for the maintenance of the auxiliary forces available for the preservation of the internal security of the Province, in support of the civil power, has hitherto been and is now borne by the British and Anglo-Indian communities.

We look forward to the time when the youth of Bengal will also shoulder its share of this elementary duty of all citizens, and we trust that progress to this end will be made during your Excellency's term of office.

In past years, the Government of Bengal has recognised the European Association as a body which should be consulted on proposals under consideration circulated for opinions pending the enactment of legislation.

We trust that this practice will be continued by your Excellency's Government, and beg to assure Your Excellency that, while we shall not hesitate frankly to criticise any proposal which threatens those rights which we are pledged to protect, we will to the utmost of our ability assist in the furtherance of all proposals directed to the advancement of the interests of the people of this Province.

It is in the heartfelt hope that Your Excellency may spend the term of your office in Bengal in health and happiness, and in the sincere conviction that the advancement and prosperity of the Province will be promoted by reason of your tenure of office as its Governor that we beg to subscribe ourselves.

His Excellency's Reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the European Association (Bengal Branches) on 18th December 1937.

MR. PAGE AND GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the welcome you have tendered to me on behalf of your Association and I appreciate the full and frank statement of your outlook embodied in your address.

No one in Calcutta, even after a short acquaintance, could fail to appreciate the importance of the position which European commercial and industrial interests occupy in this city, which for more than a century was the capital of British Government of India. The Constitution introduced on the 1st April this year brought with it an enlarged legislature and an increase in the number of European representatives; it must be welcome to all political parties that the European group has accepted its obligation to take an active part in the affairs of the legislature and to keep itself in close touch both with the administrative policy of the Provincial Government and with the broader developments of Provincial politics as a whole. I fully realise the practical difficulties that confront a community whose members are actively engaged in commercial industrial or professional pursuits, when it is faced with the necessity of providing from its ranks a substantial number of men both willing and able to give up the time and the energy that effective membership of a popular legislature demands. Yet I am sure that the whole-hearted

acceptance of their new obligations by the Europeans in Bengal is of the greatest value not only to them but to the Province as a whole.

Much of what you have said calls for little by way of reply from me. I would however take this opportunity of saying a few words, perhaps of general interest, on topics which your address has suggested.

You have declared in unequivocal terms the support of your Association for the maintenance of public peace and security of life, person and property. Such a declaration is appropriate from a Community whose representatives in the Legislature are prepared to give their reasoned support to the Government in power irrespective of party politics in their narrower sense. I would go further, however, and say that if the true tradition of responsible Government is to be followed, then it is the duty of every responsible and organised political party to take its share in a common obligation to support the preservation of public peace. The adoption of any other attitude would imperil the success of representative Government. It is no doubt the function of an opposition to be prepared to supplant any Government that may lose the confidence of the Legislature, and a Government that failed to discharge the primary obligation of preserving the public peace should rightly forfeit that confidence. It would, however, be a negation of the fundamental principles of democracy that any political organisation should attempt to undermine its political opponents, at the peril of society, by making the task of preserving order more difficult

or by countenancing activities fraught with the risk of a grave menace to peace. If only for that reason I share with all well-wishers of Bengal in your gratification, that the menace of terrorism was so resolutely dealt with in the regime of my distinguished predecessor, and that the futility of terrorism as a political weapon has come to be recognised by responsible leaders of public opinion.

It is, I think, no secret that Sir John Anderson wholeheartedly welcomed the progressive improvement in the situation that has permitted the restoration to liberty of the vast majority of those who had been detained without trial in connection with the terrorist movement. He hoped, as we all must hope, that the day would come when the idea of resort to such methods would be so repugnant to the public conscience of every generation that even the most unrepentant terrorists, if released, would be harmless because he would find himself a voice crying in the wilderness. It is to that end that my Government will continue to direct its policy and I, on their behalf, am entitled to ask for the fullest and most unreserved support of every well-wisher of Bengal, irrespective of creed or party, in furthering that policy both by word and deed. The retention on the Statute Book of legislation that might, if necessary, be effectively applied in the event of a recrudescence of terrorist organisation or activities is an integral part of that policy.

I entirely agree with you as to the importance of re-establishing in life those who are now being set at liberty after varying periods of detention. Government, by the establishment of training camps

and by providing facilities for those in detention to continue their studies, to sit for examinations and qualify themselves for after-life, have long shown their appreciation of the importance of this matter. The accelerated release of large numbers has greatly increased the magnitude of this problem and while my Government are naturally anxious to avoid giving an impression that a period of detention is a special qualification for future employment, they are equally anxious to make it clear that if a man is desirous of resuming his place as an useful citizen, the fact that he has undergone a period of detention should not by itself be held up against him as a bar. My Ministers have, in fact, taken steps to place themselves in direct personal touch with the leaders of commerce and industry in this Province with a view to seeking their help in the solution of this difficult problem; though, naturally, I cannot forestall the discussion they intend to hold, I can say, now, that their efforts in that direction have my warmest good wishes for a fruitful result. Meantime, my Government will pay an allowance of fifteen rupees a month for six months to all the 1,100 detenus now being released except those who unquestionably do not require any such allowance: this will help to tide over a period that is bound to be difficult.

You have referred specially to the case of those convicted by the courts of offences which, whatever their motive, are grave in themselves and graver still in their relation to society. I have been told that even after the prolonged discussions which have taken place on this subject, there are still some who have not appreciated the difference between

those who have been detained as a preventive measure and those who are imprisoned as a result of the judgment of a court. In the one case, it may well be urged that the justification for detention disappears if, in the judgment of responsible and well informed men, there is really no practical likelihood that the person detained will resort to those activities which his detention was designed to prevent: imprisonment under a sentence of the courts has, however, other objects than the prevention of further offences by the same individual. Any suggestion of general interference with judicial sentences by the executive Government raises questions of a much wider scope. Clemency is, in essence, an individual matter and there have not been lacking instances where individual clemency has been generously and, I think you will agree, wisely extended. But you need have no fear that my Government, for the sake of any immediate or transitory political advantage, will lend themselves to a course which would involve undermining the basic sanctions of law.

What I said, at an earlier stage of my remarks, regarding the obligations of responsible political parties in opposition to the Government in power has a special bearing on your own remarks on the subject of the activities of those who would subvert the social or economic structure of the country by propaganda essentially of a revolutionary nature. I know it is difficult to draw the line between propaganda directed against one's political opponents with a view to belittling their success or attacking their programme, and propaganda that definitely tends to encourage lawlessness or to set

class against class: it may well be that an attack of the former kind upon the programme of Government, delivered to a sophisticated audience would be of little significance from the point of view of public peace: but it does not follow that such propaganda would be equally harmless if translated crudely into the language of the masses and disseminated with that emphasis and directness that is necessary to capture the imagination of a large and politically unsophisticated audience. I cannot help feeling that if those who are responsible for the organisation of political propaganda would bear this in mind, they might, without in any way weakening their claim to the confidence of the electorate, greatly diminish the anxieties which, I believe, are felt not merely by my Government but by many sections of the population irrespective of political party.

I gladly acknowledge the debt which ordered Government owes to those members of the European and Anglo-Indian Communities who have sacrificed their leisure to man the Units of the Auxiliary Forces—Units that provide so valuable a guarantee of reserve, in emergency, for the support of the Civil Power; when you express the hope that it may be possible for this responsibility to be shared to an increasingly greater extent by the youth of Bengal, your sentiments will, I am sure, be welcomed as eagerly by the people of Bengal as they are by myself.

Notwithstanding the greater responsibilities that Government in these days has in face of the legislature, there remain many occasions on which it is of the greatest value to Government, in framing

its proposals, to be able to obtain the opinions of public bodies and associations whose interests are likely to be affected or who are specially in a position to offer useful criticisms or suggestions. You may rest assured, Gentlemen, that your Association, occupying the position it does, will continue to hold a high place among those which Government recognises and consults on such occasions.

I thank you, Gentlemen, once again for your courtesy, for the frank statement of your views, for your assurance of your concern for the welfare of this Province, and for the good wishes you have expressed to me personally.

***His Excellency's Address at the Opening
of the Indian Statistical Conference on
7th January 1938.***

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR FISHER, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN,

In coming here to-day to open this First Session of the Indian Statistical Conference—and I do so, I need hardly say, with the greatest of pleasure—I feel that my presence among so learned a gathering is justified mainly by the fact that I come in a representative capacity.

It is in that capacity, on behalf of Bengal as well as of Calcutta, that I endorse most heartily the welcome that has been extended by those who have already spoken to you, Professor Fisher, and to the delegates present here to-day. It gives me real pleasure that Calcutta has been selected as the venue of this first Conference for, I believe, Calcutta would not have been chosen had it not possessed an enthusiastic and energetic band of organisers, deeply interested in this branch of learning and in active touch with the practical as well as the theoretical problems of statistical study and practice.

The occasion is, moreover, a happy one as this month sees assembled in Calcutta the most distinguished company of visiting scientists that it has ever been the good fortune of this city to welcome, and I share your pleasure in seeing present at this meeting Sir James Jeans and the office bearers and members of the Executive Committee of the Indian Science Congress.

The membership of the Indian Statistical Institute includes not only scholars of distinction but also men prominent in the world of commerce and practical affairs: as befits a body whose studies have so intimate a connection with practical problems, the Institute, one might say, has one foot in the world of pure learning and the other in the world of practical affairs.

Professor Fisher himself has applied his profound knowledge and his brilliant and scholarly intellect with outstanding success to practical problems and the recent progress of Statistics in India as applied to agricultural research has been described as a triumph of methods originally devised by Professor Fisher at the Rothamsted Agricultural Station. It is a bright augury for the success of your deliberations that he should be present to guide and inspire them.

Government in Bengal have had good reason to appreciate the need and the value of the services that the statistician can render.

The Statistical Laboratory under the able charge of Professor Mahalanobis has reached its present stage of development as a result of specific enquiries being entrusted to his charge. It has earned recognition and support from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research as well as from this and other Provincial Governments.

The sudden and catastrophic slump that overtook both commerce and agriculture some eight years ago aggravated and brought into dangerous prominence the economic difficulties of Bengal.

The problem of Rural Indebtedness—always chronic—became acute and insistent, and, before remedies could be devised, a comprehensive and reasonably accurate picture of the situation was essential. It was here that the Statistical Laboratory was called in to help by undertaking a statistical analysis of data collected by Government regarding the extent and degree of indebtedness. The conclusions reached formed the basis not only of legislative provision but also of an extensive administrative organisation which is still being developed—at a cost in this year's Budget alone of some fourteen lakhs of rupees. The experience gained as this great work proceeds in details will be, I think, of particular interest.

Another branch of work of great and abiding importance is that which deals with the actual acreage and outturn of crops—particularly jute and paddy. Few people in Bengal, I am told, realized how much the jute crop was worth until its price suddenly fell so disastrously: a statistical experiment was undertaken by Revenue Officers in co-operation with the Director of Agriculture with a view to ascertaining the acreage under jute. This experiment has already resulted in a drastic revision of the data on which the Jute Forecast is based but at the same time it has become clear that expert guidance is essential: and experiments and researches into this question are now being carried on, with funds provided by the Central Jute Committee and under the advice of the Statistical Laboratory.

Of hardly less importance is the problem of ascertaining with reasonable accuracy what the

paddy crop of the rice growing areas is worth, and how far its value can be enhanced by works of irrigation and development. Can the decadent areas in Western, Northern and Central Bengal be reclaimed to prosperity by productive capital expenditure to be paid for—as it must—by the resultant increase in wealth? That is one of the most vital questions that confronts this Province—on the answer to that question, and on the extent to which both Government and the people can be convinced by the answer, may depend the future livelihood and happiness of millions in this Province. The statistician, the agricultural and revenue experts and the engineer, no less than the legislature and those to whom responsibility for policy is entrusted have here a task worthy of their common efforts.

I could refer to other examples but to many of you they are doubtless well-known. The instances I have quoted illustrate, in however small a way, an attempt to apply the scientific method to problems of Government—an attempt that is still in its infancy.

The worker in physical or chemical science can experiment to verify his conclusions and test the completeness and the representative value of the facts in his possession: but the phenomena of political and economic life are so voluminous and so complex that the administrator or the statesman is confronted with peculiar difficulties, both in selecting his facts, in determining their relative importance and in gauging the mutual interaction of the various factors involved. Moreover, the limits within which the statesman or the administrator can safely

experiment are strictly defined by considerations of humanity and expediency. If statesmen could forecast with certainty the consequences of policy, the little wisdom with which the world is said to be ruled could be applied to so much greater effect. And that, gentlemen, is where I, as a layman, and as one of the great body of the comparatively unwise, look to you and your fellow workers in this branch of Science for your help in research and interpretation.

In the hope that your deliberations will lead to an awakened and continuing interest on the part of Governments and the public in a branch of learning so rich in potentialities, I have much pleasure in declaring open this First Indian Statistical Conference.

His Exoellency's Speech at the St. John Ambulance Bengal Competition on 20th January 1938.

MR. COHEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very glad that the first occasion on which I am called on to appear as President of the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade in Bengal should take the practical form of a competition such as this.

I am no stranger to the work of the Order of St. John, having watched its activities on the other side of India for the last four years. I well know how much time and energy is given up by those who teach and examine, and I greatly appreciate the public spirit of those who form the Units of the Brigade and the Nursing Divisions. These competitions moreover include events that are open to holders of the St. John First Aid Certificate whether or not they are formally enrolled in the Brigade, and it gives me the greatest pleasure to be present on an occasion such as this, when some of the results of a year's hard work are exhibited in public.

The Order of St. John, though its forms and objects have changed many times since its foundation over 900 years ago, has still its original object to pursue—the relief of human suffering. That is a cause every whit as noble as any Crusade and one which demands, in the name of humanity, the same spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to an ideal.

The activities of the St. John Ambulance Association are directed to two distinct but closely related objectives; it is essentially an educational body—but it spreads education both as a forerunner to the formation of Brigade Units and for its own sake. Modern science has opened up new means and methods of treatment for injury and disease, and progress in this direction which has proceeded with unabated vigour for the last few decades, shows no signs of slackening. But science and its discoveries are of little avail unless those discoveries are known and spread abroad, and mankind takes long to learn. There are many in this country, and elsewhere, suffering the gravest disability or physical pain, simply for lack of precious yet elementary training and knowledge. The prompt and correct tying of a bandage—to take one instance only—may make the difference between health and sickness, and sometimes between life and death: a knowledge of elementary personal hygiene may make the difference between happiness and misery. It is to diffuse the knowledge of these things throughout as wide an area as possible that we look to the St. John Ambulance Association; to apply to practical service the training thus received—to organise and maintain in readiness a trained body of voluntary workers is the function of the Brigade.

But the spread of knowledge itself through the efforts of qualified and voluntary teachers is a great work worth doing for its own sake, and it is gratifying that the Association has made rapid strides during the last year in spreading its work of teaching and training in the rural districts of Bengal. Classes have been organised during the

year in more than half the districts of the Province and we are grateful to Civil Surgeons, to District Officers, to heads of educational institutions and to non-official workers for the progress made, and the example set to the other districts of the Province. Up to the month of May last year, more certificates were issued from Headquarters for mufassil classes in Bengal than in the whole of 1935; in less than the full twelve months of 1937 certificates were issued to nearly 800 students in mufassil classes. Everyone of these represents a real and sustained effort on the part of the recipient, not only in attending classes but also in passing the required examination. To-day is the first occasion on which entries have been received in this competition from mufassil teams, and I trust this is an augury of many more such entries to come in future years. I hope that during my stay in this Presidency I shall see the ideals of health and the relief of suffering for which the Order stands taking still firmer root in every district of Bengal.

It is very gratifying that the Competition has been a great success and that everything has gone without a hitch. The Doctors and Nurses who have so kindly come to-day, often at great sacrifice, have earned the thanks of the Association for their devotion to the cause of first aid, ambulance work and home nursing.

The juniors who were examined individually in First Aid only, were found by the examiners to have attained a very high standard, and this appears to be largely due to their own keenness and to the good training they have received.

I would like to express my appreciation of the very great amount of work which has been put in by those who have had in their care the management and organisation of this competition. You will also wish me to express our gratitude to the Calcutta Football Club for allowing us, once again, to use their ground for the competition this year, and to the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Boy Scouts for the loan of tents. Lastly, I must express my own congratulations to the winners of the prizes and trophies which have just been distributed. All who have competed, whether successfully or not, have, I am sure, enjoyed the competition and have learnt much that will stand them in good stead in the coming year.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
of the statue of late Sir Rajendra Nath
Mookerjee on 1st February 1938.***

MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,

We are met here to-day to do honour to the memory of one whose death, some two years ago, removed from the stage of life one of the most outstanding figures in Bengal. The name of Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee is known not only in the Province of his birth and in the city of Calcutta where most of his life's work was performed, it is known throughout the plains of Hindusthan, and also in the wider sphere of Indo-British affairs.

Rajendra Nath Mookerjee was born eighty-three years ago in the village of Bhabla in the Basirhat Sub-Division, some thirty-five miles from Calcutta. He did not, as might have been expected of a person who reached a position of his eminence, have any special advantage at the start of his career. His family was not particularly well-to-do and the loss of his father at an early age might well have set the tide of fortune against him. He was, however, given an education which, as it proved, was liberal enough to unlock the doors of success to one who had the initiative to open and pass through them.

The career of Sir Rajendra is an example to those who, fresh from their education and unused to the realities of things, are tempted to complain that their opportunities are not enough and that some

inadequacy of their training has imposed too severe a handicap on their chances in life. He himself would have been, I think, the last person to have made any such complaint and the way in which he worked up from the humblest beginnings by sheer force of character and personality should form a source of encouragement to those quick despairers of adolescence. The first position in life from which he received any form of income was the post of a school teacher in a girls' orphanage, where he was paid some fifteen rupees a month.

It was whilst he was working in this unremunerative post that he came into contact with one whose name is not familiar in Bengal to-day, but who is chiefly remembered as the designer of the Howrah Bridge which, after so many years, is soon to be replaced. This was Sir Bradford Leslie who, with what must have been a genius for discernment of character, is said to have spotted the unknown Rajendra Nath one afternoon in the new Zoological Gardens, and next day to have offered him a large contract for work at the Corporation Water Works situated at Pulta. For a young man with few resources and no capital, the acceptance of such an offer might appear dangerous in the extreme; but he was ready to take the risk and, having taken it, set himself to see that he did not fail.

I will not weary you with details of how the Pulta venture led to others, and how, when the time came and similar schemes were adopted in the United Provinces and elsewhere, it was Rajendra Mookerjee who was ready and on the spot; whose work was known to be trustworthy, and whose

contracts would always be fulfilled. Nor need I, I think, do more than refer to the founding of Martin and Company, a venture, in which Bengali and European joined together in equal shares to found a business which has, for over forty years, commanded respect in Clive Street and in the whole of India.

But the Rajendra Nath of Clive Street is not the only Rajendra Nath that lives in the mind of Bengal to-day. That the efficient running of a large business concern is in itself a service to the community no one will deny but, besides this interest, Sir Rajendra had many others in which he displayed his ideal of personal service to the community. As long ago as 1911 he became Sheriff of Calcutta, and from that time, when he first stepped out of the business world to take part in public affairs, hardly a year would pass without his being engaged on some important committee of enquiry or some official commission of administrative value. Then again, he had yet another set of interests, one which it would seem he had not forgotten in all the many years since his days as a school teacher on fifteen rupees a month. All sorts and kinds of schemes and appeals for education and for youth would find in Sir Rajendra Nath an earnest and generous patron and supporter. The Calcutta Orphanage owes its existence largely to him; the Gokhale Girls Memorial School might never have survived had it not been for his help. Himself a business man, chained to the desk for many hours a day, he recognised the value of outdoor sports and exercises; and his enduring interest in the Boy Scout Movement gained for him,

the first Indian to receive it, the highest decoration which the Movement had to give.

It is my great regret that I have come too late to Bengal to have known this great personality. He has left behind him a reputation for fair dealing and integrity, for firmness³⁸ without harshness of spirit, and for personal charm and ease of manner which enabled him to hold, with dignity, a position to which few of his countrymen had attained and for which he is held in affectionate remembrance by persons of all races and all creeds.

It now remains for me to unveil the statue of the late Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee and to disclose to view a monument which will, I hope, long remain an inspiration to his countrymen.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Kalimpong Homes, on 3rd February 1938.

DR. GRAHAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Owing to the unorthodox time of year at which I assumed office as Governor of Bengal I find myself, as President of the Homes, presiding at this meeting in Calcutta before I have had the opportunity of seeing the Homes themselves. That, let me say at once, is a state of affairs which I hope—with good fortune—to be able to remedy before I meet you again on this occasion a year hence. For the present my knowledge of the work of the Homes has been gleaned only from what I have been able to read. I may say that, as President, I have had the privilege of seeing the next magazine in proof—and from what I have heard from others.

All that I have learnt has made me anxious to know more, at first hand, of these Homes—situated in a quiet corner of the far off Himalayas yet enjoying the loving allegiance of old boys and old girls scattered over the face of the Earth, and commanding the willing services of men and women of distinction and influence in the leading cities of the Empire.

I join with you in welcoming Dr. Graham back to India after what, for one of his age, was truly a wonderful journey, rewarded not only by the gratitude of those in far off lands who owe him so

much, but also by the knowledge that he has secured substantial results for the benefit of the rising generation now at Kalimpong.

You Ladies and Gentlemen, who are shouldering the work of the Calcutta Committee, stand in need of no words from me to spur on your efforts—but if any appreciation of mine can assist you in getting support for the work you are doing, let me assure you that you have that appreciation in unstinted measure.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses presented
at Burdwan on 14th February 1938***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you most cordially on behalf of Lady Brabourne and myself for the welcome you have extended to us this morning on this our first visit to the headquarters of a Bengal District.

It is, I assure you, a real pleasure and one to which we have long looked forward, to begin our closer acquaintance with the Districts of this Province for, though the greater portion of my time as Governor must of necessity be spent at the headquarters of my Government, I do wish to see as much as I can of the wider areas of the Province, to learn at first hand of the lives of its people, and to come into personal contact with those on whom rests the responsibility of administration and local self-government in the Districts. I also welcome this opportunity of making the acquaintance—however brief,—of many who would otherwise remain unknown to me owing to the preoccupations that beset a Governor at his headquarters.

Your welcome to-day, supplementing as it does the generous personal hospitality of the Maharaja-dhiraja Bahadur, assures us of an enjoyable stay in your midst and emboldens me to hope that my visit will be of real value to the better understanding of your District and its people.

You have spoken, with justifiable pride, of the long history of Burdwan—a name, I am told, which signifies, in its origin, prosperity and increase. You have in your addresses this morning given me a concise picture of your activities and have, I hope, laid stress on those matters which from the point of view of your own responsibilities are uppermost in your minds as tending to the welfare of those with whose interests you are charged.

You, gentlemen of the Municipality, have rightly laid stress upon the importance to the health of this town of a good water-supply—and I observe with pleasure that the help you obtained nearly sixty years ago from Government and the Burdwan Raj has been of real benefit to this town. My Minister in the Department of Local Self-Government and Public Health has informed me of the discussions that have taken place during the last three years between Government and yourselves on the subject of the necessary improvements, and I understand that technical questions relating to economy in distribution are at present under discussion, and that you will shortly be consulted further on this question. I am assured that if a suitable scheme is submitted by you, in consultation with the Chief Engineer of the Public Health Department, it will receive due consideration by the Hon'ble Minister.

I have heard with interest your account of your educational activities. I have read that, a century ago, it was reported, after an enquiry into the state of education in the Province, that Burdwan was then the best educated District in Bengal. Compared with modern standards the progress of those days must

seem rudimentary, but I am glad you appreciate the importance of further progress still. I am at liberty to say that my Government hope, shortly, to be in a position to announce, in the Legislature, their plans for setting in motion that improvement in industrial development to the necessity of which you have drawn attention. The Minister for Education is aware of the special claims which you, gentlemen of the Burdwan Muhammadan Association, have put forward in your address, and I can but ask you to await such measures as my Government may be in a position to lay before the Legislature in that behalf.

To return, gentlemen of the Municipality, to your particular problems of hospital facilities and the relief of leprosy, I have been asked by the responsible Minister to assure you that the general problems of which these form a part are actively engaging his attention and that your representations will receive his due and careful consideration, as part of wider proposals which my Government may find themselves in a position to announce.

It is most unfortunate that, owing to what are, I hope, removable misunderstandings, the inhabitants of this Municipality have been deprived of the benefits of electric lighting in its streets. It would, however, be inappropriate for me to express an opinion on the merits of this question at a time when the matter is under the consideration of the Minister of Commerce and Labour who is charged with the administration of the Electricity Act. I have every hope that his good offices and those of his colleague in the Department of Local Self-Government will bring about a satisfactory solution of the present difficulties.

Gentlemen of the District Board,

In referring to the hopes you entertain of an all-round improvement in the condition of the rural population you have touched upon a subject to which my Ministers, and I personally, attach very great importance. Apart from those statutory duties imposed upon local authorities by law, there is, I believe, a very wide scope for the closer co-ordination of beneficent activities in the rural areas; there is scope for the encouragement of local initiative and the better employment of what I may call the reserves of voluntary man power in the Province. After careful consideration of the experience gained during the past few years, my Ministry have appointed a Director of Rural Reconstruction, whose functions it will be to make easier the task of co-ordinating the work of rural reconstruction throughout the Province. This is a task in which it is hoped to secure the fullest co-operation both of local self-governing bodies and of the individual members of them personally. I may assure you on behalf of my Government of strong support and encouragement from Government and its local officers in the sustained and systematic organisation of that wide range of activities that falls under the general term of Rural Reconstruction.

I may, moreover, assure you, gentlemen, that my Ministry are alive to the necessity of the mutual co-ordination of plans in matters affecting public health, communications, irrigation, agriculture and co-operative credit—matters which are often closely interconnected and have far-reaching effects both upon the welfare of the people and upon the agricultural and general revenues of the Province. For my part,

I will do all that I can to facilitate such co-ordination both in the Provincial Secretariat and at the outlying headquarters of Districts and Divisions.

I share the concern with which you regard the periodical ravages of flood in the Trans-Damodar area, and have informed myself of the nature of this problem and the views of my Ministers and their technical advisers upon it. I am advised that to attempt to confine the river on its right bank would be both retrograde and dangerous, and that an ultimate solution is to be looked for in the possibility of controlling the upper reaches of the river as part of an extensive scheme having far-reaching effects: and one can only hope that such a scheme may prove practical from a financial as well as a technical point of view. I am advised also that the question of reafforestation in Western Bengal, which is now being investigated, may have an important bearing on the matter of sudden floods. Meantime a contour survey of the Trans-Damodar area is proceeding and, as soon as that is finished, the Department of Irrigation intends to consider what immediate measures of alleviation are possible by way of drainage channels and low level sluice gates.

I also understand—though full details are not yet available—that the Department of Irrigation is considering the feasibility of certain proposals that have been suggested to mitigate the effect of the normal flooding upon agricultural lands in the Khāndaghoṣh area.

I come now to a matter which, I know, is one of the greatest concern to this District, and in fact to the

Province as a whole—the question of the rates to be charged for the water of the Damodar Canal.

That this Canal has vastly increased the resources of the areas which it benefits is—I think I may safely say—established beyond the scope of responsible controversy: what has been under dispute is the actual degree of benefit and the proportion in which that benefit should be shared between the general tax-payer at whose cost such works are constructed and the cultivators who reap the benefit. My Ministry have been at pains to arrive at a fair answer to this question, and until their decision is announced it would serve no purpose for me to express any opinion on the question of the actual rates to be charged.

It is however so apparent as to be beyond controversy that a project of this magnitude must either pay for itself or be financed by subsidy in some form or other from the pocket of the general tax-payer. To those who have to pay the Canal rate, it is naturally a more attractive proposition that the burden should be taken off their shoulders and borne by the Province as a whole: but whether the Province as a whole should bear this burden is a matter for my Ministers to decide with a full sense of their responsibility to the Legislature and their responsibility for the welfare of the Province in the long run. That, gentlemen, is all I propose to say on the particular question of the Damodar Canal rates: the responsibility for a decision is not mine—I can only express the hope that whatever decision is arrived at will be justified by history when the time comes for a generation yet unborn to look back and assess the achievements of its predecessors.

I would, however, say one thing quite plainly and with the full authority of my Ministers. In reaching a conclusion as to what rate should be paid, they will endeavour to give the fullest consideration to every point of view that has been pressed before them and to the special circumstances of this particular scheme. Once that decision has been reached it will, I trust, be remembered that it is a decision of Government. My Government fully appreciate the natural reluctance of cultivators and others to pay up their dues during a period of uncertainty as to what the final demand will be; but once a decision has been taken—a decision which it is the duty of loyal citizens to respect and of Government, if need be, to enforce—the question of payment or non-payment passes beyond the sphere of legitimate political agitation.

You have referred, gentlemen of the District Board, to the menace of Communism. Communism, it seems to me, is in Bengal, at the present time, a somewhat vague term, embracing a wide range of ideas and activities which I do not propose to analyse this morning. But there is one aspect of political agitation which cannot but cause serious concern to all well-wishers of responsible Government—and that is the idea that it is legitimate to undermine the structure both of Government and society by encouraging an attitude of procrastination or default in the payment of lawful demands. To encourage such reluctance to pay would constitute a grave disservice not to this or that Ministry but to the cause of responsible Government as a whole in this Province.

Gentlemen of the Burdwan Muhammadan Association,

I have in the course of my remarks had occasion to deal already with certain of the topics you have raised. It remains for me to refer more particularly to your comments on the subject of representation in the Public Services.

So far as the Governor is personally concerned, I must remind you that, under my Instrument of Instructions, it is enjoined upon me to be guided, in the matter of communal representation in the Public Services, by the accepted policy in force on the 1st of April 1937 unless I am satisfied that modification of that policy is essential in the interests of the communities affected or of the welfare of the public. I may add that the whole question of communal representation in the Public Services is at present under consideration by my Government.

In the case of recruitment to District offices, the minimum percentages at present in force are the result of very careful consideration having regard to the distribution of the Moslem community in different parts of the Province: in the case of Provincial Departments, such as that of Irrigation, the obligation to recruit from particular areas has not so far been recognised; and, even if such an obligation were recognised, it would be somewhat difficult to apply to a particular area, where Moslems may be in a minority, the minimum percentage which is applicable to the Province as a whole. In general, however, the representation enjoyed by your community in the Legislature should, I think, be a sufficient guarantee that the principles approved by Government are not operated in practice to your disadvantage.

Gentlemen, you have, in framing your addresses, appreciated the limitations which my constitutional position must of necessity impose upon my reply. If I, on my part, have refrained from entering into details on matters which are the concern of my Ministers, let me assure you, nevertheless, that I have studied with care and interest and, I think, with profit the administrative problems which your addresses have brought to my notice and am glad to have had the opportunity of so doing.

I thank you, once again, for the warm welcome which you have extended to us and I look forward, during the next two days, to making your better acquaintance and to seeing more of your town and District.

***His Excellency's reply to the addresses presented
at Birbham on 17th February 1938.***

GENTLEMEN,

As His Majesty's representative in this Province, I acknowledge, with appreciation, your expressions of loyalty and devotion to the Person and Throne of our gracious Sovereign. I well know that, in this land of ancient kings, your devotion to the Royal House has remained unswerving throughout changing times—a loyalty to be treasured both for its own sake and as the symbol of that common unity that, we pray, may guide the destinies of India and her people through the momentous years that are now upon us.

I thank you, gentlemen, for the warm and cordial manner in which you have welcomed Lady Brabourne and myself to the charming headquarters of your historic District. Departing somewhat from usual custom, I have tarried on the way, and yesterday paid a visit to Santiniketan where the spirit of culture and learning, of which your District is proud in its history, has found new life under the guidance and inspiration of Rabindranath Tagore. My journey from Burdwan has enabled me to see something of your countryside, and I hope, before I leave, to gain its further acquaintance.

Although to-day, gentlemen of the Municipality, you have been at pains to save us from personal experience of the dust of Suri, I can nevertheless well appreciate the seriousness of this problem on the dry

soil of your town. So far as the technical problems of road improvement are concerned, my Government will, of course, be glad to place at your disposal the advice and experience that they have gained. But, in the matter of further help, I fear I am not in a position to commit my Ministry.

I have heard with pleasure that you have opened a chest clinic: the detection and prevention of Tuberculosis is a matter that looms large in our thoughts, and I would take this opportunity of commending to the people of your town and District the great opportunity now offered by the appeal of Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow for the King Emperor's Anti-Tuberculosis Fund.

Turning again to your rural areas, I have been deeply impressed with the need for irrigation—as indeed must anyone be impressed who looks back on the history of your District. I have read of the appalling calamity of famine that over a hundred and fifty years ago depopulated hundreds of villages and caused wide tracts to revert to jungle. Fortunately, improved communications and better organisation have removed the fear of such calamitous consequences, and I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the services of all—officials and non-officials alike—whose devoted efforts saved your District two years ago from the worst consequences of successive bad years of crop. Nevertheless, it is obviously true that irrigation alone can solve the problem, and the water is there if it can only be utilised. Maps and plans for the project of a reservoir in the river More are now under preparation in the Department of Irrigation, and it is hoped, I am informed, that the rough estimates will be ready by

the rains of this year. Such a project, if practicable, would effect a transformation in the District: but its cost, I am told, is estimated at something like three crores of rupees. I can make no statement of policy beyond saying that such a sum is not beyond the capacity of this Province to borrow provided that the scheme is financially sound and that there is no apprehension lest the capital and interest charges of such a scheme should fall as a dead weight upon the revenues of the Province.

As regards the smaller schemes, and in particular the revival and maintenance of irrigation tanks, my Ministry have placed before the Legislature a Bill which, if passed, will greatly strengthen the hands of Government in carrying useful projects into execution through the agency of the Collector or of such local authority or Co-operative Society as may best be able to undertake the task.

I will not weary you with the details of smaller schemes which are known to you and with which I have also acquainted myself—but I may state, on the authority of my Ministers, that a scheme supplementary to the Kashianulla Irrigation Scheme is expected to be taken up during the coming financial year. I would also ask any among you who have influence in the District to impress upon Co-operative Irrigation Societies the great importance not merely of executing a work but also of maintaining it by sustained efforts. After all, the basis of co-operation is mutual help which does imply a real effort at self help.

I agree with you as to the need of credit in an agricultural community and as regards the present

actual position I am informed that enquiries have already been undertaken to find out precisely to what extent facilities are needed to bring land under cultivation which would otherwise remain fallow. On the general question, however, it seems to me that given the water and the increased wealth that water would bring, credit would follow—provided always that the creditor has unshaken confidence not only in his debtor's ability but also in his willingness to meet his obligations.

My Government are continuing and expanding the work of Debt Conciliation initiated in the regime of my distinguished predecessor to deal effectively with the question of inability to pay in the case of accumulated and inflated liabilities of the past. It is for the leaders of the people, while urging them to take full advantage of the facilities thus offered, to impress upon them at the same time the need for caution in employing borrowed money in the future and the grave consequences to progress that would be involved if the impression were to gain ground that current obligations and future liabilities could be lightly evaded.

In addressing these remarks to you, gentlemen, I have no doubt I am preaching to the converted, but I have felt moved to take this opportunity, when my remarks may reach a wider audience, to restate a proposition which is so obvious that it may sometimes be in danger of being forgotten.

Gentlemen of the Anjuman-i-Mozakaria Islamia,

In your efforts to encourage the members of your community to make up for lost time and fit themselves

for the strenuous competition of modern times you have the fullest sympathy and support of my Government.

In claiming, however, the special advantages of a minority community in this District you should not, I think, overlook the fact that in the Province as a whole the Muslim community enjoys a preponderance of representation in the Legislature—a fact which should, by itself, suffice to secure that their point of view is not ignored.

So far as Government services are concerned I would refer you, on the general question, to what I said three days ago at Burdwan in reply to your sister organisation there.

Regarding the appointment of non-residents of the District in the local offices of Government I am informed that such appointments of both Muslims and non-Muslims have been made only when suitable candidates were not locally available.

My Government have no control, under the law, over the communal allocation of posts by local self governing bodies and the matter is not therefore one on which I should properly express an opinion beyond referring you to what His Excellency Sir John Anderson said some three years ago in reply to a similar representation.

The Chairman of your District Board has proclaimed in eloquent terms your faith in the possibilities of the Constitution—a faith proclaimed on an occasion such as this some three years ago and now reiterated. The growth of responsible democracy must call into play the highest qualities of

those who are place in power: it must also demand the development of high traditions on the part of both supporters and opponents of Ministries in the Legislature.

It is because I believe that these qualities will be forthcoming in Bengal that I welcome the more heartily the expression of your confidence in the future.

I thank you, once again, gentlemen, for your cordial welcome to us to-day. I need hardly assure of my deep interest in all I have heard from you this morning.

His Excellency's Addresses to the recipients of medals and badges at the informal investiture held at Government House, Calcutta, on 22nd February 1938.

C. B. E.

MR. SUSIL CHANDRA SEN, C.B.E.,

Your services as a Special Officer appointed to deal with Bills in the Central Legislative Assembly relating to Company and Insurance law have been highly appreciated not only by the Central Government but by all sections of the Assembly—an appreciation which has been publicly expressed.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Commander.

M. B. E.

MR. WILLIAM HARRY BATES, M.B.E.,

You have rendered great assistance and loyal service to the authorities in the district of Burdwan, of which you are a resident, and have done extremely good work for the pottery industry in which you are a recognised authority. Your many qualities have gained for you a strong influence over labour and other classes in Raniganj, and you have performed valuable public service as an Honorary Magistrate and as a Commissioner of the

Raniganj Municipality. You have also been the President of the Geological and Metallurgical Institute.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Kaisar-i-Hind Medal in Silver.

MRS. ADA FRANCES MORGAN,

You have always been interested in the care of the sick and suffering and your record includes a period of service during the Great War. As Matron of the Indian Hospital at Kharagpur for over seven years you have shown great devotion to duty, and it is well known that you are ready to do everything in your power to relieve the sufferings of the patients under your charge.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal in Silver for public services in India.

Kaisar-i-Hind Medal in Bronze.

MRS. SAROJ BASHINI GHOSH,

Left in difficult circumstances by the death of your husband, you made a great sacrifice to assist the Dhanbad and District Leprosy Relief Fund towards the building of a leprosy hospital; your generous action which commemorates the medical work of your late husband is much appreciated in the locality.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal in Bronze for public services in India.

MISS VIOLET NORTH,

The tactful and reliable manner in which you have performed for many years your arduous duties as sister-in-charge of nursing arrangements in the Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases has played a large part in building up the reputation of the Hospital. Your devotion to duty and your keen interest in the welfare of the sick have made you popular amongst all manner of patients in the Hospital.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal in Bronze for public services in India.

***His Excellency's reply to the addresses presented
at Chittagong on 27th February 1938.***

GENTLEMEN,

Appreciating as I do the influential and representative character of the local bodies and Associations on behalf of which you have spoken, I am deeply sensible of the sentiments of loyalty to the Person and Throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor which you have expressed this morning. I also thank you most heartily for the warm welcome which you have extended to Lady Brabourne and myself, on behalf of the Town and District of Chittagong as well as on behalf of the many interests which you represent.

Coming from the far side of India to a Province as extensive and as varied as Bengal, I realise full well that I have a great deal to see and learn and I count it of great value, in the course of my touring, to be assured of the fullest help from those in positions of responsibility in public life, in my attempts to acquaint myself widely, yet not superficially, with the Province and its people.

It is true that the days are past when the Governor of a Province could fitly be prepared with a precise answer to every problem of administration or policy that might be brought to his notice on occasions such as this. With the development of responsible Government and with a great increase that has taken place in the number and influence of the elected

representatives of the people in the Legislature, both local authorities and representative Associations are in a position to make their voices heard and their influence felt through new channels and by methods which formerly were available to only a limited extent. It is fitting, therefore, that when an answer has to be given to particular administrative question, the credit for successful achievement should go to Ministers: for they, after all, are primarily confronted with the problem of making the best use of the material resources of the Province, and upon them lies the burden, not only of formulating policy and bearing the brunt of day-to-day administration, but also of continually rendering account of their stewardship to the Legislature and to the public.

It would, however, be far from the truth to represent myself purely as a detached and disinterested spectator of the difficulties of others. The function of a Governor, as I see it, is not one of acquiescence based on mere detachment but of enlightened co-operation, proceeding from a real understanding of the potentialities, no less than of the difficulties, of the Province committed to his charge. I shall, therefore, in the course of my stay amongst you, do my best to acquaint myself not merely generally, but also in detail, with the problems with which you are, individually and collectively, concerned and with the manner in which those who are responsible for the solution of those problems are approaching them.

I am informed, GENTLEMEN OF THE MUNICIPALITY, that your most pressing and immediate preoccupations

are the improvement of your water-supply, the overhauling of your road programme, and eventually, the installation of a scheme of sewerage. In these matters, as indeed in the due discharge of any of your Municipal functions, you may rest assured of the co-operation and support that my Government and its local officers are always prepared to extend to local self-governing bodies. You, on your part, will bear in mind that a local authority itself may best establish its claim to Provincial assistance by the initiative and efficiency of its administration.

The prominent part which Commercial bodies have played in this morning's function is a reminder, if any is needed, of the close link between the prosperity of trade and commerce and the well-being of the Town and District of Chittagong. The internal affairs of the Port itself are no longer a concern of the Provincial Governor, but I well recognise the vital importance of this Port to the prosperity of Eastern Bengal and I am looking forward to the opportunity which has been afforded me by the courtesy of the Port Commissioners to pay a visit to the River Training Works. In improving the approaches to the Port and facilitating the trade of Chittagong, you, GENTLEMEN OF THE PORT COMMISSIONERS, are rendering a service of the greatest value to the Town, the District and the Province.

From your passing reference to the short-lived Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, I infer, GENTLEMEN OF THE CHITTAGONG ISLAM ASSOCIATION, that in your view the Province of Bengal as now

constituted affords due facilities for the advancement of your community: but I would ask you to look for that advancement not in any separationist spirit, but as part of a process of the general advancement of Bengal as a whole which it must be the duty of Provincial Ministries, however constituted, to plan and to expedite by every means at their command. The Moslems of Chittagong have displayed, throughout their history, a progressive and enterprising spirit—a spirit which they still continue to display. That, Gentlemen, is the best guarantee that you will take your part, to the full, in furthering the advancement of the Province and will reap your due share of the resultant benefit.

I well appreciate the concern you have expressed on the subject of Palestine, a subject on which I regret I am not in a position to say more than I said to representative members of your community in Calcutta shortly after my arrival in Bengal. I will, however, most certainly comply with your request and convey to the proper quarters the sense of concern that you have expressed on this matter.

GENTLEMEN OF THE BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION,

I was somewhat surprised, having in view the fact that the question of special electoral arrangements for Buddhists was not dealt with by the Indian Delimitation Committee in the case of Bengal, to hear that your community in the Province was more numerous than that of the Indian Christians. I find, however, that there is an explanation. Of some

three hundred and sixteen thousand Buddhists in the Province nearly half are in the Chittagong Hill Tracts where no electoral arrangements exist. Of the remainder, some fifty-nine thousand are in Darjeeling where, together with other hillmen, they are in a position to exercise a powerful influence on the general constituency; some seventy-five thousand only, I am informed, are in the District of Chittagong where their general interests are perhaps not widely divergent from those of the general population of which they form a small minority. These figures will, no doubt, explain the reason for the absence of statutory separate representation of the Buddhist community as such.

It has, however, in the present Legislative Council been possible for the Governor to give one of the few seats filled by nomination to a member of your community who is connected with your District and thereby to secure that your special interests shall not go without representation in the Legislature. It would of course be impossible for me, or indeed, for any Governor, to bind his successor as to the manner in which his discretion should be exercised in nomination. But your community has, in fact, secured for the present a degree of representation by nomination which previously, I am informed, it had not been found possible to accord to you.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHITTAGONG BRANCH OF THE
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION,

Your address this morning has reasserted the principles enunciated on your behalf by the Association

in Calcutta a short time ago. I realise that the Europeans in Chittagong have particular reason to take a serious view of any possibility of recrudescence of terrorist or violent revolutionary activities. As regards persons convicted of violent crimes, my Ministry have recently announced their policy in terms which I think should leave no doubt as to their intentions and I would only refer to what I said a short time ago in reply to your Association in Calcutta. Clemency, as I then said, is essentially an individual matter : since I spoke on that occasion, there have been further instances where such clemency has, I believe, been wisely exercised by my Ministry, and I am at one with them when I say that, in my opinion, the policy they have announced is conceived in a spirit of realism. A policy thus conceived cannot fail to take into account both political expediency and the effect of Government's action upon political and general sentiment : but what you and all law abiding citizens are entitled to ask is that in deciding on its policy Government should also take into account both the immediate and the ultimate effect on the protection of life and property and the maintenance of law in the Province. To repeat what I said then, you need have no fear that my Government for the sake of any immediate or transitory political advantage will lend themselves to a course which would involve undermining the basic sanctions of law.

GENTLEMEN OF THE MOSLEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

I have taken note of your claim for representation on various public bodies in Chittagong. With regard to the Managing Committee of the Chittagong

General Hospital, I understand that your representation is receiving the consideration of the Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government, but I am not in a position to inform you, at this stage, of his final views on the matter. With regard to bodies for which the Provincial Government is not itself responsible, I can only say that, should a reference be made to my Government by the authorities who are responsible, you may rest assured that, in view of the fact that your Chamber has now been recognised, the matter will be examined with due care and sympathy before an opinion of the Provincial Government is expressed.

GENTLEMEN, I have listened with pleasure and appreciation to your references to the natural charms and to the rich history of the Town and District of Chittagong, and I feel sure that it has been a matter of deep regret to you, no less than to Government, that the events of a few years ago have cast a shadow that still lingers over the District. You share, I know, with me the hope that the future will be brighter and happier, and I would ask you, particularly those of you who have influence among the rising generation, to relax no efforts in attempting to secure that the generation now growing to maturity shall not again be misled by ill-conceived dreams of heroic achievement which end by materialising in crimes abhorrent to every human and manly instinct. A great responsibility rests on all those who have any influence with the young men now restored to liberty after periods of preventive or punitive detention, and my Government, while anxious to bring about that

process of appeasement which we all desire, will watch with vigilant sympathy the results of the policy they are pursuing. On their behalf and for the sake of the happiness and progress of your District and of Bengal as a whole, I would ask for your willing and wholehearted co-operation in guiding the rising generation away from the pitfalls that have beset so many of their predecessors.

In conclusion, I thank you once again on behalf of Lady Brabourne and myself for your welcome and courtesy this morning and I assure you of the sincerity of my desire that the coming years shall bring to you and Bengal peace, happiness, and prosperity.

***Report of His Excellency's Speech at the
Annual Convocation of the Calcutta
University on 5th March 1938.***

His Excellency thanked the Vice-Chancellor most sincerely for the hearty welcome he had extended to him on the occasion of his first official visit to the University in connection with its annual Convocation. His Excellency, who deemed his connection with this University a great honour, expressed the hope that during his term of office much would be added to the "extremely impressive catalogue of achievements" of the University which the Vice-Chancellor had narrated and that during this period the University would go from strength to strength and achieve further triumphs as time went on.

• On behalf of the University and every alumnus His Excellency thanked the Rev. Mr. Andrews for his inspiring address. "Those of us who have the privilege of knowing the Rev. Mr. Andrews," remarked His Excellency, "realise how very typical of the man is the address. We know what a tremendous love of his fellow-beings has always actuated Mr. Andrews. I hope his address will reach a wider audience than the one assembled here."

"The Key-note of his address was friendship—the friendship between teachers and students. But let us try to take this friendship a little further. Wherever you look in the world to-day, you find

suspicion. Look East or look West and you find the same thing—suspicion between nations and even between people of the same nation. If only a little more friendship could be taught to the nations of the world, this cloud of suspicion would soon vanish and, in a very short time, many of the grave problems which we are facing to-day throughout the world, will disappear.”

Addressing the students His Excellency said: “Young men and young women who stand at the threshold of your careers to-day, you take with you the very best wishes of every single one of us who has travelled some little way down that road. We all realise that many of you have hard struggles ahead. Remember when you go out into the world that you are equipped in a way which is denied to millions of your fellow countrymen. Make service the key-note of your life; avail yourselves of every opportunity to help your more unfortunate fellow beings. Remember that the opportunity to do this is one of the priceless things which your University training has given you.”

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Bengal Provincial Boy Scouts Association on 11th March 1938.

GENTLEMEN,

Let me first of all thank you very much indeed for the welcome you have given me to-day on the first occasion on which I have had the privilege of addressing you as the Chief Scout for Bengal. I must also thank Mr. De for the very kind terms in which he has referred to me. The Boy Scout Movement is one which is so universally popular that one wonders why it was not thought of before the present century. Its astounding advance since its foundation shows that it has come to fill a real place in the affections of the youth of the world and if there were any who doubted its value in its early days they must surely be silenced now. I am, myself, a great admirer of the movement and I was connected with it for many years at home before coming to this country. That was why I was so very pleased to be asked to become the Chief Scout for Bombay when I went there over four years ago. That is why I was so very pleased to accept the invitation to become your Chief Scout also.

I have noted that your numbers here are not so great as on the other side of India. My predecessor here was, I understand, always pleased to see any increase in the numbers of your association but I share with him the belief he so often expressed that numbers are not everything and that the quality of your scouting is as important, if not more

so, than the number of scouts you can place on your register. What specially pleases me in the reports we have had before us to-day is the fact that as many as nineteen King's Scout Badges were issued in the period under review and I notice that a large number of first class badges have also been earned.

I am very glad to see that the scouts of this Province made such a good showing at the Jamboree which was held in Holland during the summer. Of the twenty-eight members of the Indian contingent as many as eight came from Bengal : and we have proof that they played a prominent part in the work of the contingent and contributed largely to its success. The value of the contacts with scouts of other countries provided at the Jamboree cannot be overestimated. Of special value, I think, is the fact that three of those attending the Jamboree from Bengal also took the opportunity to visit Gilwell on their way back and to take a short course of training there. The personal contacts and exchange of ideas rendered possible on such occasions form, I think, one of the most attractive features of the International aspect of the Scout Movement.

You will, I think, expect from me some comment on the questions of a constitutional nature that have arisen amongst scout organisations in India during the last year. They arose from the report of a speech from Lord Baden Powell which was construed as indicating that the Chief Scout was somewhat critical of Indians whether scouts or otherwise. Other Provinces have taken this opportunity to assume a critical attitude towards the Imperial connection in Scouting, and this

Province has had an opportunity of expressing its own opinion on the matter in several conferences and meetings which have taken place since then. I do not wish to enter personally into this controversy nor do I think that it is necessary for me to add anything to what the Provincial Commissioner has just said in his summing up of the question and its repercussions in Bengal. But I would just say this, that whatever difficulties may crop up, and whatever relations may be severed or ties cut, I do hope that all scouts who take part in such proceedings may approach them and carry them out in the true scouting spirit, with a due regard for the point of view of the other side and with the firm intention of allowing no bitterness or ill will to enter into their thoughts or actions.

I am very glad indeed to see in the report for the year under review a record of the work of social service that the scouts have performed during the year. The good example set by the Rover Scouts in their hikes through the villages will, I trust, not only be a source of value to the villagers concerned but will also become an inspiration to other troops, crews and packs in the Province. The atmosphere of out-of-door adventure, rather than the formal atmosphere of the class room, is part of the essence of scouting; and the more we can get away into the countryside, and the more we can set ourselves to do acts of service to others rather than to amuse ourselves at home, the more shall we tend to enter into the spirit of the great game which the Chief Scout has planned for us.

I would also say a word or two in praise of the scouts and the cub who have won special recognition

during the year under review for particular deeds of gallantry or of heroism. Scouts personally are not, I think, inclined to magnify their own good deeds in the eyes of others; but the movement as a whole is entitled to be proud of their achievements and I think the Council will join with me in offering my best congratulations to the recipients of these awards. I would also like to place on record our gratitude to a great many loyal and devoted servants of the movement who have now been helping it for many years without the hope of any particular reward, except the pleasure they themselves take in work which is worth doing. During the last year especially those interested in scouting have had many hard decisions to make in the attempt to keep the movement on the right lines and to prevent it from disintegrating. But the Scout Movement has weathered many storms and I have no doubt that, with the continued help of its friends and by remaining true to its own principles, it need have no fear that it will fail.

***His Excellency's Addresses on the occasion
of presentation of the Medal of Merit to
Scouters Saroj Ghosh and Ashim Dutt
at the Jackson Shield Competition on
12th March 1938.***

Medal of Merit.

SCOUTER SAROJ GHOSH,

You became a scout twenty-two years ago, in your school days, and have continued your interest in the movement ever since. You have put in a great amount of work as Assistant Secretary at Provincial Headquarters during the last five years and have been very successful as a trainer of scouts and scoutmasters. Last year you accompanied the Indian contingent to the World Scout Jamboree in Holland and, as quartermaster to the contingent, made a most valuable contribution to the success of the expedition and the enjoyment of the Jamboree by your fellow countrymen.

The Chief Scout has now been pleased to award you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your good services to the movement. In decorating you with this medal I am very pleased to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India, and to add to them my own.

SCOUTER ASHIM DUTT,

You have been actively associated with scouting for fourteen years and were one of the original "Governor's Scouts" before the Association in Bengal became affiliated to Imperial Headquarters.

Last year you accompanied the Indian contingent to the World Jamboree held in Holland and you played your part there in all the activities of the contingent. In particular you were responsible for the display given by the contingent which was much appreciated by the other scouts gathered at the Jamboree.

The Chief Scout has been pleased to grant you a Medal of Merit in recognition of your services to the movement. It gives me great pleasure in investing you with the medal to convey to you the congratulations of His Excellency the Chief Scout for India and to add to these my own.

***His Excellency's Speech, at the Jackson
Shield Competition on 12th March
1938.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Let me first of all say how happy I am to be here this afternoon to make my first acquaintance with practical scouting in Bengal. I feel that I am very fortunate both in the place and in the company which have been provided for such an occasion; for in the place I have the pleasure of seeing your own camp site on which so much care has been expended during the last few years; and in the company I think I have as many scouts and well-wishers of the movement from as many parts of the Province as are likely to be gathered together in one place at any particular time during the year.

Let me first speak of the camp site. I think you should be very proud of this excellent site which I understand is being used a great deal for the purpose of training camps and outings. I have been very pleased this afternoon to perform the opening ceremony of the Camp Chief's Nest, which has so generously been given by Mr. S. G. Bose. This is, I think, a very graceful adornment of the ground and will, I am sure, prove a most valuable acquisition. Mr. Nripen Bhose, after whom the camp site is named, has recently provided certain additions to the Kiosk, and the Association is very grateful to him, for it was through him the camp site was originally obtained, and he

has done so much to help in other ways to improve its amenities.

Then let me say how interested I have been in watching the display which the various teams have put up this afternoon. They have given me my first view of the realities of scouting in Bengal and I must say that I am definitely impressed by what I have seen. The keenness and enthusiasm, which have been shown, especially after a long day spent in the competition are very encouraging signs of the vitality of the movement in this Province.

And now I wish to address more particularly those who have come in from distant parts of the mofussil to take part in the Jackson Shield Competition. I think you have all realised what a great deal it means to you to have the opportunity of coming here and taking part, with others from all over the Province, in a friendly competition in matters in which you are all interested. I hope that what you have seen and heard during your stay here will be of value to you when you return home, and that you will teach the other troops in your own towns or villages the new things which you may have learnt at Ganganagar. I also wish to say how very proud I am to become the Chief Scout of your movement in Bengal. I shall have a great deal to do in the coming years in the way of touring in the countryside and I shall endeavour, if I happen to stop for any length of time in your own particular town, to make it my business to look you up and see that you are keeping up to the mark. I shall expect to see, in the course of my tours, the same enthusiasm and the same skill and

keenness that you have displayed this afternoon and in the competition during the last few days.

I congratulate the various winning teams to whom I have presented the trophies this afternoon. To those who have failed to carry off any of the awards we must all wish "better luck next time"; they may be disappointed but I hope not discouraged that they have not had the fortune to win anything in this year's competition: but we shall expect to see them back here again next year, all the better equipped by the experience they have gained here on this occasion. I must also congratulate those to whom I have had the pleasure of presenting individual awards this afternoon. The Association and its well-wishers are, I know, very proud of such recognition being accorded to the services of the scouts of Bengal.

Finally, let me say a word to those who have undertaken the task of organising this competition and the ceremonies this afternoon. The spirit of scouting is service for its own sake and if they have no tangible reward they will I know count the successful manner in which these functions have been carried out as a great enough return for their endeavours. I thank them and you for a pleasant afternoon spent at this very delightful country spot, and for the very impressive introduction which I have been given to the scouting movement in this Province.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize
Distribution of the Barrackpore
Government Park School on 18th
March 1938.***

MR. HEADMASTER AND BOYS,

It is a great pleasure to Lady Brabourne and myself to welcome you here this afternoon and to be present at the annual ceremony of prize-giving of your historic school. It is very interesting to us to find here in Barrackpore, and connected with Barrackpore Park, a school of such ancient foundation and to learn of the interest which successive Governors-General of India and Governors of Bengal have taken in its progress. I need hardly add that this is a tradition which I shall do my best to uphold during my stay in Bengal.

Bengal is a land rich in cultural associations and ancient learning and I think it may be said that no Province in India attaches a higher value to such matters than Bengal. Throughout the length and breadth of India the literature which Bengalis have built up for themselves, their novels and their poems have attracted the attention of all educated classes. Bengal to-day, through the genius of her sons during the past century and a half, has made for herself a great tradition of learning and a treasury of literature which have few to equal them in India.

You are the heirs to this tradition. It is in your hands and in the hands of many like you in schools and colleges scattered up and down the country that the future of Bengal in these, as in

other matters, lies. There are many with whom you will be called upon to compete when you come to the end of your school days, but few, I think, who will have had the advantage of an education given in such pleasant surroundings as you have here in Barrackpore. If it is true, and I think we must admit that it is, that the education that is imparted in Bengal to-day is a mixture of the cultures of Britain and India, then indeed you have the ideal setting in which to receive it. Your buildings, though not planned on a large scale, reflect the ecclesiastical origins of education in England; and this Park, on the edge of which your school is situated, is the nearest approach to an English Park that I have seen in India. Indeed, waking early in the morning and strolling through the grounds here, one could almost imagine oneself back in England. And here, under the twin influences of India and England, you have the perfect setting in which to imbibe the cultures of both East and West, and you will have, more than others, an opportunity to understand and follow what is best in both of them.

I am very interested to hear in the report which your Headmaster has just read of the interest which you take in the various activities which have been arranged for you outside the normal curriculum of the school. Your continued interest in such matters as scouting and cubbing, and also in the Red Cross, and your prowess in swimming and other sports is a very encouraging sign of the enlightened manner in which your school is managed. I am pleased also to note the success which the school has achieved in examinations during the year.

There is little more that I wish to say to you, but I have one very important announcement to make: and that is, that as this is the first time that Lady Brabourne and I have been able to meet the teachers and pupils of the school, we have asked the Headmaster to give you a holiday of seven days—though this is not necessarily to be taken all at once, but as and when it is most convenient. Further, Lady Brabourne and I are making a donation of Rs. 250 to the school to be applied towards the provision of new furniture or equipment. Finally let me express Lady Brabourne's congratulations and my own to those who have received prizes this afternoon: we wish all of you another successful year's work and play, and good luck in your sports and examinations.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual
General Meeting of the Tuberculosis
Association of Bengal on 25th March
1938.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Association is held in unprecedented circumstances. During the year that has passed one fact stands out very clearly as of first importance in the history of Anti-Tuberculosis Work in India and that is the issue by Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow of an appeal for a large sum of money with which to initiate and carry out an All-India campaign against this widespread disease. This is a fact which overshadows all else in the sphere of work to which this Association devotes its labours and, if my opening remarks this evening are directed to this appeal and to its reactions on your work, rather than towards the achievements which you have yourselves been able to record during the year, it is because I feel that the issue of this appeal holds out prospects of an unexpectedly early realisation of one of the things for which your association has constantly looked—a really determined and widespread campaign against Tuberculosis.

What you will, very naturally, be asking yourselves is—what will be the ultimate fate of the present Association which during the last nine years has borne alone,—and I must say, in a manner which must command the greatest respect and admiration,—the brunt of the battle in this Province. The position that this Association will

occupy in relation to the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund when collections are complete and the 95 per cent. allotment is placed at the disposal of Bengal must clearly be a matter for settlement between the Association and those in charge of the Fund in this Province. I cannot anticipate the results of the discussions and negotiations that will then doubtless take place—but it is clear from the terms of Her Excellency's appeal that there should ultimately, be in each Province a Provincial Organisation affiliated to the Central Organisation and responsible for fostering clinics and, where possible, sanatoria and after-care settlements.

I can express no opinion but I have no doubt that the Executive of this Association will make their views heard when it comes to the point. The position of the Association, in the meantime, is, I think, clear; it will probably wish, whilst waiting for the plans that may develop as a result of the appeal, to pursue, without a break, its previous course. It will thus lighten the task which lies before those who may be called upon eventually to administer the King-Emperor's Fund in this Province.

I am very interested to note that you have taken practical steps to extend the work of the Association to the mufussil and have drawn up rules for the affiliation of local associations to the Provincial Association; and I notice that the Kalimpong Association has already become affiliated. The value of Lady Linlithgow's Appeal as a means of propaganda is great and everything the Association can do to take advantage of this propaganda and

to consolidate and preserve the interest in Anti-Tuberculosis work which it has awakened, will be worth much in later years when Funds are available to translate this interest into practical help and work.

I have noted from your report the steady advance which you are making for the establishment of an X-ray Clinic in Calcutta and I trust that in the not too distant future the efforts which you have made over a period of years in this respect may be brought to fruition. I have also noted the steady increase in the collections made on behalf of the Kalyani X-ray Fund, which will provide poor people with the means of obtaining free treatment when the treatment itself becomes available.

Of very great interest from every point of view, and most especially now that Tuberculosis and its incidence and treatment are so much in the public eye, are the statistical figures which you have collected in the past year from the work performed in the five Calcutta dispensaries, and some others, which are under the Association. The disease of Tuberculosis is no respecter of persons and it has been shown by these figures that all sorts and conditions of people in different professions have come to you for aid. Most of those coming for help have been in the prime of life—between the ages of 20 and 30, and—a fact which shows how much there remains to do and how much can be done by propaganda—of those who sought your aid only some twenty per cent. came to you in the early stages of the disease. That I think is at once a most encouraging and a most distressing fact. For

it shows that, given proper knowledge and adequate provision for treatment in the country as a whole, there is room for a very great decrease in the incidence of the disease; but it also shows that under present conditions there is constantly occurring a wastage of life and health that is tragic.

It is a great relief to know that strenuous efforts are now being made to remedy this state of affairs, and I feel that this assembly must have met here to-day with a greater feeling of hope than it can have had throughout the nine years of its existence. Those who have been interested in this work and have put their efforts into it during the last few years will have a feeling of satisfaction at the prospect of much that they have hoped for coming within the bounds of possibility. There remains, however, a great deal of work yet to be done and I know that those who have been engaged in the work of this Association for so long will not slacken their efforts. In thanking them for the work which they have been able to do in the past in this connection I do not wish to imply a sense of finality. The work they have been able to do has been a worthy foundation. The Association has still a task to perform and if, at any future date, this body should become merged in some other body with greater and more adequate resources, those who have been most active in this enterprise will, I know, be found amongst the first to offer their assistance in a wider sphere of service.

